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UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

BULLETIN

THIRD QUARTER - 1958

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OF RELIGION

Bible Society Work in Europe

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Bible Society Contact with the Churches

A new department of the Netherlands Bible Society

F. Visser

FOR A LONG TIME, the General Committee and staff of the Netherlands Bible Society have felt that the Bible, although distributed in millions of copies, does not always realise Isaiah's word: "It shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). If this happened in a greater measure, it would surely be a gracious gift of God. Yet the proper functioning of the Bible is also partly dependent on whether there are people who read it and use it correctly: "Come to the waters, buy and eat (even without price!); seek the Lord while He may be found . . . . ." (Isaiah 55). An ever-increasing number of people are coming to the conviction that one might, without exaggeration, speak of a calamitous situation in this respect.

In the first place, since the formation of the Netherlands Bible Society in 1814, there came into existence in Holland the "masses without Church" (grown from 0.01% to about 20% at the present time). It is true that Bible use is sometimes found among such people who are estranged from the Church, but this is only exceptional. And often this class directs its attention to the Bible as a monument of culture. It is no overstatement to say that there is a generation growing up without knowledge of the Bible and without awe for the Word of God, and the Bible threatens to lose its inspiring and norm-setting influence.

But within the churches, also, an enquiry into the use of the Bible reveals dismaying deficiencies and imperfections. A large percentage of those who are still members of a church read the Bible merely "pro forma". It is hard to estimate how many Protestant Dutchmen seriously try to understand the message of the Bible by going to church, family Bible reading, personal Bible study or by attending a Bible circle. But their number is probably appallingly small.

Another factor is that even where the Bible is still opened, it is not being used in the proper manner. In church services, the text is often made to serve the purpose of a hat-stand instead of that of a starting point. In families, joint Bible reading is often kept up for traditional reasons only and in many cases has ceased to be a respectful listening to God. In schools and catechism lessons, in some cases, the Bible itself is not read and the pupils are not taught how to handle the Book of books. There the Bible proper only serves as a parting gift on leaving the school. And among this category of Bibles, a very great number are never opened. Then again, in personal Bible use, there is often a lack of respectful listening, especially where the biblical message is mortifying and self-revealing. Augustine's example, of not hesitating to apply Romans 13:13, 14 to himself, does not find much imitation. All too soon there is a falling off in such Bible reading; in order to avoid the full impact of the Bible message, people have recourse to pericopes, as a means of modifying that message, but all too often this leads to spiritual numbness. Regular and obedient Bible reading is rare.

In Bible circles, in themselves a heartening phenomenon, the Bible is used too often as an arsenal to defend the personal point of view. Many lonely Bible readers nowadays resort to the sects, where the Bible is often treated like an arithmetic book and where no justice is done to the connection of the text with its immediate content and with the period of circumstances in which it originated.

And yet the Bible Society goes on selling this book, full of dynamite, without directions for its use. That is the business of the churches, it is said. And in the churches themselves it is expected that the necessary service to promote the proper use of the Bible will be provided by the Bible Society. In view of the critical situation which the Bible is now facing, Bible Society and Church can no longer afford to wait for one another. Here a close contact between the churches and the Bible Society is required, and in the Amsterdam Bible House efforts are now being made to intensify this contact along the following lines:

(1) **Direct consultation between churches and Bible Society and the organisation of close co-operation.** In two of the national Churches, machinery has been set up by the respective synods for co-operative relationships, through which close contact is maintained with the Netherlands Bible Society. Proposals are to be made to other churches to set up similar machinery in order to stimulate the sense of responsibility for the distribution and use of the Bible in church councils and congregations, to seek, in co-operation with the Netherlands Bible Society, the best ways of giving the Bible the place it deserves and to call on the communities to give financial support to the N.B.S. so as to enable it to do this work at home and abroad.

Ministers, church councils and those in general who take a leading part in the work of the churches, should be urged to encourage the proper use of the Bible throughout their parishes, using the services offered by the Netherlands Bible Society.

Church councils will be asked to devote a special meeting to this topic, to which also other church workers will be invited (e.g. home visitors, club leaders), so that activities for the broadening and deepening of Bible use may be planned, and such helps as the N.B.S. has available may be shown.

The colportage work of the Netherlands Bible Society should be embodied to a larger extent into local evangelisation campaigns. Regular consultation should be maintained with other bodies engaged in promoting the distribution and proper use of the Bible, in order to try to come to a justified co-operation and as far as possible avoid duplication of effort.

(2) To achieve all this, an **Enquiry into the use of the Bible in Holland** is indispensable. It is of major importance to obtain a clear insight into the actual situation with regard to Bible use in the Netherlands. This enquiry has already been started. Two sociological bureaux have already conducted a limited investigation jointly. This is now being continued by the Department for Contact with the Churches. That department has already drawn up a questionnaire which will be circulated in some ten parishes of varying sociological and ecclesiastical structure, as a beginning. The facts thus obtained may be passed on to the Rev. E. H. Robertson, who is doing the same work on an international level for the U.B.S.

(3) As a service to the churches, the work of the **Committee for the Promotion of the Proper Use of the Bible** will be energetically continued. This Committee, which was instituted by the General Committee of the Netherlands Bible Society, works on its own responsibility and is sub-divided into 3 sections:

(*a*) *Section for basic Dutch.* This section studies the possibility of producing Bible portions in a very simple form of Dutch. It strives after short sentences, ordinary but cultured vocabulary, the condensing of repetitions in the text, a lively style, harmony when read aloud and as little loss of the original contents as possible. In so doing, it tries to avoid paraphrase and exegetical circumscription.

(*b*) *Section for Aids.* In order to serve the churches, this section supplies aids towards the promotion of the correct use of the Bible. Like the former section, this one has already been at work for quite a time (producing Bible reading plans, exhibition stands on the use of the Bible, magazine editions of Gospels, filmstrips, etc.). The chief projects in hand at present are: a Bible reading plan for secondary schools; a Dutch version of the booklet "Devant la Bible ouverte"; a pocket edition of the New Testament with short explanatory footnotes; an edition of an illustrated Bible with maps, genealogies and an appendix with explanatory aids; an edition of the Gospel of John in magazine form, including photographs of life in present-day Holland; preparations for a Bible reading plan for young people; the collecting of existing Bible reading aids and supplying information thereon.

(*c*) *Section for Bible reading in groups.* Apart from the task of constantly advocating the setting up of Bible reading circles within the churches, the Committee finds a special chance here for the organisation of inter-church Bible reading days. These have already been held in several places and five more are in the course of preparation. For their organisation a plan is available. Further possibilities in this field are being seriously considered.

The integration of new department into the home work of the Netherlands Bible Society

In planning the home activities, Bible House will now have to consider seriously the new opportunities and appeals which are opened up by the Department for Contact with the Churches. Auxiliary committees will be acquainted with the fact that the task of the Bible Society is not finished when Bibles are distributed. The promotion of the proper use of the Bible is also part of their responsibility. It would be to the mutual advantage of churches and Bible Society if it became more and more customary, locally, to have close consultation in the planning of activities.

More meetings are to be organised within the churches. More emphasis should be laid on the responsibility of church council and congregation for the distribution and use of the Bible, and on the missionary task of the Netherlands Bible Society. Closer co-operation is to be sought with the local churches in the planning, execution and follow-up of colportage campaigns, exhibitions, shop-window competitions, etc.

If the new Department for Contact with the Churches functions in Holland in this manner, it will, as a by-product, also increase the sense of responsibility of Protestant Holland for the Netherlands Bible Society, and thus the financial support forthcoming. We have before us already the task of promoting church collections in favour of the N.B.S. and of helping the local church councils with suggestions and with their preparations towards this end.

Bible Mission in Germany

Alfred Müller

The task

The organisation known as Bible Mission in Germany (Bibelmission in Deutschland) is engaged in the task of distributing Bibles, New Testaments and Portions among individuals and groups who are in physical or spiritual need to-day as a result of what they have suffered. Its work covers three groups of people: Germans in western Germany; foreigners in western Germany; and German-speaking Christians in other countries.

(1) The service of Bible distribution is primarily directed towards exiles and refugees in western Germany and in west Berlin. Elfan Rees, the director of the refugee service of the World Council of Churches, has called the twentieth century "the century of the homeless". The following statistics apply to Germany: since August, 1945, 18 million Germans have lost their homeland. By June, 1956, every fifth inhabitant of western Germany was an exile or refugee. But the numbers are continually increasing. During 1957, 265,000 people from the German Democratic Republic fled to western Germany. In addition 101,000 Germans came from the former German areas of eastern Europe which are now under Polish and Russian administration, and from the eastern European countries. This means that every day during 1957, western Germany received 1,000 additional inhabitants. The numbers for 1958 will be still higher.

Only very few of these 1,000 people who arrive in western Germany every day bring with them a copy of the Bible. Most of them have with them only a brief-case or a cardboard box with a few sandwiches and a little underwear. Anything else would make them suspect in the eyes of the police where they cross the frontier. For most of them their future is absolutely unknown. It is only the young people who can count on soon getting work, wages and accommodation. The old people, the women and children, have to wait for weeks, months and sometimes years in huge camps, housed in barracks.

These people begin to ask about the meaning of their life and their relationship to God. This is the opportune moment for Bibelmission. When we succeed in making them acquainted with the Word of God and trusting in it, they gain a firm inner strength. Where this does not happen, they give in to an attitude of resignation, of despair, or to egoistical materialism and finally to atheism.

(2) In western Germany there are about a quarter of a million "foreign homeless" from the countries on the other side of the "iron curtain". The Bibelmission tries, as far as is possible, to supply them with copies of the Bible in their own language.

(3) The Bibelmission takes part in providing Germans in other countries (German-speaking people in Russia, Germans in the Foreign Legion, etc.), with Bible and Portions.

Scope and method of work

The committee for Bibelmission was formed on October 6, 1954. The following groups are represented on it:—from abroad: the United Bible Societies, the American Bible Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society; from Germany: the Verband der Bibelgesellschaften, the Innere Mission and the Evangelische Hilfswerk, the Free Churches, the Volksmission, the YMCA/YWCA Service to Refugees. The committee of Bibelmission has personal links with the Union of German Bible Societies through having the same President (Pastor Robert Steiner) and the same General Secretary (Pastor Dr. A. Müller).

During the year 1957, the Bibelmission distributed: 7,724 Bibles, 10,128 New Testaments and 90,148 Portions—a total of 108,000. These books were obtained partly as gifts from abroad, and partly purchased from our publishing Bible Societies (in Stuttgart, Witten and Berlin). In addition we have published our own editions of 60,000 copies of the Gospel of Luke, under the title "Es begab sich aber zu der Zeit" and 30,000 copies of the Gospel of John, under the title "Im Anfang war das Wort". Since its inception, Bibelmission has circulated over 307,000 Scriptures.

How have these books been distributed?

1. In the first place, the groups represented on the committee of Bibelmission have taken part in this service:

(*a*) The Bible Societies supplied the books to pastors, who distributed them among refugees in their parishes, in old people's homes, in homes for young people, in hospitals, etc.

(*b*) The Innere Mission and the Evangelische Hilfswerk care for the majority of the 3,000 refugee camps in west Germany and west Berlin, through their workers. In this case the distribution is carried out by the staff of the camps, by deacons and deaconesses and other agencies.

(*c*) The Free Churches, which, in comparison with the Landeskirchen are very few numerically, but which carry out their work with great enthusiasm and faithfulness, co-operate in the Bible-missionary work through their full-time voluntary workers who visit the refugees.

(*d*) The association for Volksmission has, in connection with its Bible Weeks and evangelistic work, a valuable opportunity for the missionary distribution of the Scriptures.

(*e*) The YMCA/YWCA Refugee Service is concerned particularly with the care of young refugees in camps and homes. About a quarter of all the refugees from the DDR are young men and women, up to 24 years of age, living on their own. The Refugee Service employs about 100 full-time workers, through whose efforts also many Scriptures find their way to refugees.

2. The enormous refugee camps in west Berlin and the Friedland camp in the neighbourhood of Kassel present a difficult problem for our Bible-missionary service. In 1957, 370 refugees from the DDR sought admission daily to the camps in west Berlin alone.

Daily transports of around 500 men, women and children pass through the camp of Friedland, coming from the area on the other side of the Oder/

Niessen Line. They have all lived through years of the direst need, and the joy many experience when they receive a Bible in their own language is almost indescribable.

But, as has been said, Berlin and Friedland are only two large centres of our Bible-missionary activity. There are, in addition, the large camps in Ulzen (Lüneburger Heide) and Giessen (near Frankfurt), into which the refugees stream on the occasion of "a visit to relations in West Germany", in order finally to leave their homeland in the DDR. Altogether there are 3,000 camps, large or small, in which we undertake help. Since the time, three years ago, when the committee for Bibelmission was formed, our work has developed to such an extent that every refugee can now receive a Bible, Testament or Portion if he asks for it.

The number of voluntary helpers in our service in these refugee camps is growing. For example, the well-known professor of theology, D. Dr. Thielicke, of the University of Hamburg, along with his students, took an active part in our work during the Easter holidays of 1958, distributing Bibles among the refugees.

Basically, one may say that the work of Bible distribution is carried out in a way which we call "missionary". That is to say, we only give a Bible, Testament or Portion in those cases where there is known to be a real spiritual need. In such cases our workers talk with the refugee, trying to make clear that the Word of God offers him a true and decisive help for his life. We also give him a Bible reading plan, which introduces him to the daily reading of the Scriptures.

3. During 1957/58 we carried out two special projects among non-refugees:

(*a*) In co-operation with the Bremen Bible Society, the Innere Mission and the Baptist community, we extended our work of Bible distribution to emigrants. In this way 650 Bibles in German, English and Hungarian were distributed.

(*b*) We have begun Bibelmission work among the soldiers in our army. In co-operation with the army bishop in Bonn, we have given out 10,000 copies of our special Gospel of Luke and 1,000 Illustrated New Testaments for use in barracks. The army chaplains are particularly grateful to us for this service, for these editions—in contrast to Gospels which were distributed formerly by foreign evangelisation groups—are in the revised Luther text (introduced by the churches since 1956) and, in addition, are presented in a specially good type and with an appearance which conforms to modern taste.

4. During 1957 we distributed 4,068 copies of the Scriptures to homeless foreigners in Germany, from countries behind the "iron curtain", in the various languages of middle and eastern Europe. This service too is always received with great gratitude by those who benefit from it.

5. In 1957, also, about 1,500 Scriptures went to German-speaking Christians living abroad. Of the centres to which they were sent we may mention: Vienna, resorts in Italy, Prague, Budapest, parts of Russia, Windhoek, the French Cameroons, Winnipeg, Sydney. So far, 500 copies of the Gospels of Luke and John have been sent to Brussels for visitors to the World Exhibition there.

Bible missionaries

For some months, three full-time Bible missionaries have been engaged in our service. Their task is two-fold:

(*a*) They visit the refugee camps, hold Bible study classes for adults, young people and children, have talks with the refugees, offer them Bibles or Portions, encourage the daily reading of the Bible and, last but not least, help to train the camp staff for Bible-missionary work.

(*b*) They inform the Protestant community, through lectures, about the work of Bibelmission and the world-wide activity of the Bible Societies and appeal for funds for the continuation of the work.

Financing of the work

So far the work of Bibelmission in Deutschland has been almost entirely supported by gifts of Scriptures and money from the A.B.S. and B.F.B.S. The help and support which the West German Land-and Free Churches in general provide to the millions of refugees have been made much more effective by the gifts from Bible Societies in other countries. One might say that this help forms the largest part of the service to refugees. For, as one of our friends said, "Bibelmission is the heart of *all* mission".

Our gratitude, from the German side, to the Bible Societies in London and New York, is very great. Our response can only be in trying to urge our Protestant community in Germany to take an increasingly greater responsibility in this activity. The first fruits are visible already: in 1957 we received nearly DM 13,000 from German donors; in addition, a "Freundeskreis für Bibelmission" (group of Friends of Bible-mission) has been formed, which last Christmas, for example, contributed more than DM 3,000 for the work. Our three Bible missionaries also collected a sum of DM 3,000 during the course of 200 days' work. We are thankful for this help from evangelical Christians in Germany, although so far it is still modest. We hope that God will further our work and will open hearts and hands in our country for the extension of the work of spreading His Word.

The Bible Cause in Germany

Robert Steiner

A FEW YEARS AGO I delivered an address to a congregation in the Rhineland on "The blessings that flow from God's Word in the world of to-day". In thanking me for my lecture, the local pastor made the following remark in the presence of the assembled congregation: "Hitherto we thought that the Bible Societies existed to serve us, but now we have seen that we exist to serve the Bible Societies". Most pastors and church-goers do indeed continue to believe that the Bible Societies are there to supply them with the Bibles and NewTestaments more cheaply than they are able to buy them in a bookshop. The realisation that the Bible Societies are there for people who still have no Bible, and are unable to purchase one themselves, is only very slowly dawning on us here in Germany. So far, we have completely overlooked the fact that the Bible

Societies have a missionary task to fulfil—for the performance of which they are dependent on the contributions of the congregations and churches. The Union of Bible Societies in Germany regards it as one of its most essential tasks to ensure that people realise more and more clearly that they must help the Bible Societies by their contributions—so that they can make God's Word accessible to those who have not yet received it.

It is not generally known that the Union embraces 32 Bible Societies in Western and Central Germany. These 32 Bible Societies, nearly all of which came into being in the 19th century, differ from one another very widely. In addition to the largest—the Württemberg Bible Society in Stuttgart—we find "medium-sized" Societies, and others whose sphere of activity is very small. All of these, in their turn, vary widely among themselves. Some of our Bible Societies publish Bibles, New Testaments and Portions. We have five such publishing Societies at the present time. The others confine themselves to the task of distributing the Bible. There is no reason why these Societies which do not actually produce Bibles should be any the less active. Some of them keep the congregations and churches informed about their activities, in order to obtain donations and thus contribute to the distribution of the Bible in the "mission-fields". There are also many points of difference to be observed as far as the activities are concerned. We have Societies whose activity has been intensified in a very welcome manner. With others, one could wish that their activity, too, could be increased. It is inevitable that along with these differences there should go some difficulties, but it has hitherto always proved possible to surmount them.

We are most grateful for the fact that in the divided Germany of to-day there is only *one* Union, combining all the Bible Societies in Central and Western Germany—just as Germany has one Evangelical Church in which all churches are united. Every large Bible Society in Western Germany—or in some cases, a group of smaller ones—sponsors a Society in the German Democratic Republic, helping it and providing it with editions of the Bible, especially with scholarly editions, which are not published in the German Democratic Republic itself. In other respects as well, the Bible Societies in Western Germany assist those in the German Democratic Republic.

Every year the Union holds a Congress, which is combined with its annual meeting. It takes place in a different town each year. This year it was held in Berlin-Spandau. The Secretary of the Union in Western Germany and the Secretary of the Bibelwerk (Federation of Bible Societies in the German Democratic Republic) visit the Bible Societies, parishes and church authorities regularly, in order to discuss the work carried out by the Bible Societies, and the tasks facing them. The Union aims at helping the Bible Societies to make known to the congregations the work which is being done to publish the Bible and distribute it. This is why its service to the public has become more and more extensive. Towards that end we produce a year-book, "The Bible in the World" (*Die Bibel in der Welt*), whilst other publications are issued by individual Bible Societies; lectures and Bible Exhibitions are held to the same end. This is a sphere in which the Secretaries are very active, being invited more and more often to give talks during Bible Weeks or at other functions, and to organise Bible exhibitions. These latter events always attract a great deal of attention. Pastor Dr. Müller

(General Secretary of the Union) was able, for instance, to report on this subject as follows, at our annual meeting in Berlin: "There is one thing that I should like to emphasize yet again: the enormous interest shown in our exhibitions, by young people—that is, by grammar school and higher secondary school pupils, students at professional training establishments, and local youth associations. We have found again and again that boys and girls, after a 'group-visit' to our exhibition in the morning, returned in the afternoon, examined and compared the various individual German and foreign editions of the Bible, studied the literature being exhibited in connection with the Bible and engaged the organisers of the exhibition in frequent discussions. It is with gratitude that I am able to record the great interest shown in the exhibitions, not only by the headmasters but also by the scripture, history, German and art teachers, thus enriching the group visits. In this connection it was most gratifying to see how they very soon turned their attention to the main substance of the Bible". Nor are opportunities missed, at these exhibitions, of giving practical assistance, as well, in the reading of the Bible. On this subject, Dr. Müller reports as follows:"My colleagues and I have not held a Divine Service, delivered a lecture or organised an exhibition which has not culminated in drawing people's attention to the importance of reading the Bible daily and of using it in their everyday life, and in giving them practical guidance as to how to do so. The exhibition invariably included a section, with carefully selected material, showing the practical aids to daily Bible-reading now available to the evangelical Christian. The visitors' reactions were duly gratifying, as they continually took out their note-books, or asked the organiser for a slip of paper, so that they could write down titles of publications exhibited in connection with the Bible, especially the plans for systematic Bible-reading". We are thus endeavouring, in more and more new ways, to make God's Word known to people in Germany—above all to those to whose attention it has not yet been brought. We are also most pleased to see that the army chaplains are availing themselves to an ever greater extent of the services provided by the Union and by the individual Bible Societies, in order to make the Word of God known to the young men in the *Wehrmacht* and to help them to make the Bible the book by which they direct their lives.

Most of the Bible Societies in Germany have hitherto been very conservative in continuing to distribute Bibles, New Testaments and Portions in the way to which they have always been accustomed. They supply Bibles and New Testaments to local pastors at a reduced price. The pastors then pass them on to the members of their congregations, either as gifts or at a lower cost. A number of Bible Societies have nevertheless realised that this is not enough. They have therefore struck out along new paths. Mention must be made first and foremost of the Central Bible Association of Bavaria (*Bayerischer Zentralbibelverein*). Two colporteurs (one of whom, however, is paid by the Bible Mission Committee) are engaged in the area for which the Bible Society is responsible. The main duties of these two men are performed in refugee camps, of which there are still a great number in Bavaria. They distribute Bibles and New Testaments to the Refugees—and to isolated evangelicals. In the same way, a Bible colporteur from the Baden Bible Society is continually travelling from one place to another, to carry the printed Word of God to the lonely villages and farmhouses of the Black Forest. In Hamburg, the Hamburg-Altona Bible Society co-operate closely with the "Home Mission" (*Volksmission*) and the Bible Mission. The same applies to the Bergische and to the Lower Hesse Bible Society. The Bible Society of Saxony (*Sächsische Hauptbibelgesellschaft*) in Dresden has also increased its activities in a similar direction.

Where actual production is concerned, it is a welcome development that those Bible Societies which print Bibles have taken the step, during these last few years, of adapting the form in which the Bible is printed and bound to the requirements of the present time. This applies above all to the re-prints of the New Testament, with their revised version of Martin Luther's translation—the version officially adopted in 1956. The individual verses are no longer separately indented in the text, even where two columns have been retained, as in the case of the "People's Testament" of Stuttgart. The most satisfactory result is to be found in the so-called "Revised Testament" published by the Württemberg Bible Society; this is printed in "Bembo" Roman type and was included, in 1957, among the fifty most beautiful books in Germany. The typography of the new editions published by the Bible Society in Berlin and Altenburg has also been revised on new and pleasing lines.

Certain Bible Societies are coming to realise more and more clearly that the Societies in Germany also have a responsibility for propagating the Holy Scriptures in the "mission fields" and in the young churches. They therefore play a part in the publication of editions of the Bible for missionary purposes, or provide the funds to this end. The main Societies engaged in such work are the Württemberg Bible Society, the Altenburg Bible Society, the Bergische Bible Society, the Palatinate Bible Association and—since recently—the Lübeck Bible Society. We make efforst to get the Bible Societies to take over such work for the "mission fields" of the missionary societies established in their respective zones. The Württemberg Bible Society for example, has made itself responsible for the printing of the Bali Bible for the area where the Basle Mission functions in West Africa, as well as for the New Testament in the Truk language for the Liebenzell Mission and in the Yabe language for the Neuendettelsau Mission Institute and its work in the Finschhafen district of New Guinea. The Bergische Bible Society co-operates very closely with the Rhenish Mission Society, and has published the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles for the Mission in Mentawei (Indonesia). It also concerns itself with the printing of the Old Testament in the Nama language, for the Namas in South West Africa. The Altenburg Bible Society has sent a considerable quantity of illustrated editions of the Gospel according to St. Luke, in Swahili, to East Africa, where German missionaries were once active. The Palatinate Bible Association has had Bible stories in the Fulani language published for the Mission in the Cameroons, with the Schnorr von Carolsfeld illustrations. The church in Lübeck has decided to send two missionaries to India at its own expense (the present Bishop of Lübeck was at one time a missionary in India). The Lübeck Bible Society will accordingly make itself responsible for the supply of Bibles and New Testaments to the zone in which the two missionaries work. It can thus be stated that the feeling of "missionary responsibility" within the Bible Societies in Germany is growing.

The Union of German Bible Societies has been in existence for ten years. During this period it has shown how useful and necessary its work is. It continues to regard it as its task to help the Bible Societies to co-operate "according to the effectual working in the measure of every part" (Eph. 4:16). It endeavours to make the spiritual tasks facing the Bible Societies still clearer and to pave the way for the realisation that we, as Bible Societies, do not just exist for ourselves. We must not glorify ourselves; we must give service. This applies to every Bible Society and to the Union as a whole—"that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified". (II Thess. 3:1)

The Swiss Bible Society

Otto Naegeli

First awakening

THE SWISS BIBLE SOCIETY (SBG) in its present form is among the youngest members of the U.B.S., but its origins go back to the autumn of 1804, when a circle of awakened Christians brought the Basle Bible Society into being, inspired by the founding of the British and Foreign Bible Society and by the visit of its first Secretary, Dr. Steinkopf. The creation of the Basle Society was soon followed by that of further Societies in Berne, Schaffhausen, St. Gallen, the Aargau, Zürich and Geneva, to mention only the most important. The plan had already been envisaged of forming an organisation to cover the whole of Switzerland. This plan, however, was doomed to fail as a consequence of the complex conditions prevailing in the political and cultural spheres and in matters of language, and, last but not least, as a result of the independent-mindedness of the different churches and the plurality of Bible translations in use. (In the German-speaking world, it was above all the Zürich Bible and the Piscator Bible that held their own, side by side with Luther's translation.) Since, moreover, Switzerland had been completely plundered, owing to the turmoil which the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars had brought in their wake, it is understandable that those in Switzerland who made it their aim to further the knowledge and understanding of the Bible should have first of all concentrated their efforts on combating the deplorable shortage of Bibles in their own country rather than on helping to supply the needs of the world beyond their frontiers. A whole series of printed Bibles in the various translations bears witness to the energy displayed by these circles; they also had their Bibles distributed by itinerant booksellers, and constantly urged the churches to honour the Word of God. In this way the aim which the Bible Societies had set themselves was gradually attained and Switzerland became a country well supplied with the Bible. This inevitably resulted in the Bible Societies becoming less important and even, in certain cases, deciding to dissolve. The distribution of Bibles, either at lower prices or as gifts, was taken over by the churches themselves; the evangelical and most of the confessionally neutral book-dealers proved willing to stock an adequate assortment of Bibles which they could easily buy from production centres abroad.

The New Call

The position did not change until after the Second World War, when a considerably increased demand for the Bible began to make itself felt and when, in addition, the former main production centres were no longer able to meet all the requests made of them. To these factors were added the creation of the U.B.S. and the choice of a Swiss, Olivier Béguin, as its second General Secretary. Could he see his own country stand aside while other lands were making ever greater efforts to combat the shortage of Bibles?

What had not been possible 150 years earlier was now achieved: after the cantonal Bible Societies had provisionally combined together and become affiliated to the U.B.S., the latter's Regional Conference was held in Boldern, in

Canton Zürich, in the autumn of 1955, and the Swiss Bible Society was then founded. This, however, did not mean the disappearance of the smaller groups that had existed hitherto. These latter retained their independence, and together with a number of established cantonal churches and certain free churches, as well as other church institutions, they provide the responsible membership of the Society. Consequently, the Swiss Bible Society is not—as in the case of most other member-Societies of the U.B.S.—a central organisation with subordinate groups and a "consultative" relationship with the churches, but a "parliament" composed of independent movements interested in the publication and distribution of the Bible. A new trend for them is the orientation of the work towards the world-wide task. The main aim of the SBG—an aim with which all its 28 member-organisations have declared themselves to be in agreement—is to render the maximum of assistance to those countries which are not in a position to provide their own Bibles, and yet at the same time to ensure that the mother country does not go short. On this point, however, the Swiss Bible Society's policy is to help its member-organisations wherever the latter are too weak to fulfil their local tasks, rather than taking over the work centrally. It is the same concern for the particular conditions obtaining in Switzerland that hitherto restrained the SBG from opening a Bible depot or sales-centre of its own. The SBG, like the Societies in other countries, likewise does not embrace all the movements dealing with the publication and distribution of the Bible. In this connection, we would mention the independent "Bible House" in Geneva, which probably has the most amply equipped stock of Bibles in Switzerland at the present time and which engages in far-reaching activities both at home and abroad.

Giving freely

Some of the funds of the SBG are provided by the member-churches and member-Societies. Since, however, most of these have not specialised in the distribution of the Bible, or have their duties to fulfil in their own spheres, there are limits to the extent to which they can carry out propaganda on behalf of the organisation as a whole or secure new contributions for it. The SBG therefore approaches the local congregations direct—where possible with recommendations from its members—and builds up a circle of friends throughout the country, whose contributions help to further its work. The principle of "Let each one give when and as it brings him pleasure" applies to all those concerned, whether members or private supporters. The system of fixed annual contributions is unknown to the SBG. In these circumstances, needless to say, there is no certain financial security. Yet even the experience of the first few years showed that in Switzerland, too, those who ask for help in making the Bible known do not ask in vain.

The newness of this world-wide service has meant that a comparatively large amount of time and energy has to be spent on conveying information and on general promotion. A quarterly journal for our circle of contributors, a duplicated information bulletin for pastors and church authorities and an illustrated leaflet for distribution to the general public—all these publications appearing both in German and in French—are effective means of furthering our work. Many of our compatriots are only too willing to contribute their donation as soon as they see that it is utilised "direct" instead of finding its way into some large general fund. The organisers of the SBG thus endeavour to dispense with any appreciable reserve fund, despite the lack of certainty that further donations will continue to come in. The donations received in 1957 totalled nearly 70,000 Swiss francs.

Our sphere of work

It was obvious from the very outset that the Bible Society of a country which is so varied, and which despite its small size has world-wide connections, would have to concern itself with a number of different types of task at the same time rather than with one single sphere of work. In doing so, it decided to give special attention to those spheres of activity in which at least a part of the Swiss missionary movement has been engaged for over a century. In addition, the wishes of the members had to be considered, insofar as they were in harmony with our over-all aim. Where methods were concerned, our main aim in the beginning was to co-operate with the U.B.S. in supplying new funds to the larger Bible Societies already in existence in other countries or in assisting Swiss institutions in their efforts to propagate the Bible.

A further step forward was taken in the winter of 1956/57, when over 10,000 Hungarian refugees entered Switzerland. Encouraged by one of its members, the SBG launched an appeal for the printing of parts of the Bible in Hungarian. Within a few weeks the first independent biblical publication of the SBG, the Gospel of St. Luke in Hungarian, accompanied by a supply of Gospels according to St. John towards which the SBG contributed, was made available. These were used not only for refugees in Switzerland, but also for those in many other countries, via their respective Bible Societies. This very first Bible-printing on the part of the SBG showed clearly that the latter certainly did not want to be a "self-centred" Bible Society; this became even more evident when the second Bible publication, an illustrated edition for the Mission to the Tibetans in the Himalayas was published; the characters in which it was printed could hardly be read by anyone in Switzerland! A third independent publication is the Gospel booklet in German entitled "*Tod und Leben*" (Death and Life), the purpose of which is to draw the attention of visitors to the World Exhibition in Brussels to the Bible and its distribution. For this year it is planned to publish a four-language Gospel of St. Luke, intended first and foremost for use in hotel rooms.

It was a particular source of satisfaction for the SBG that it was able to come to the aid of its Belgian counterpart contributing funds towards the provision of a colporteur for the German-speaking areas of Belgium and for the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. Fritz Siegenthaler, a Swiss, has been active in these areas since the summer of 1957, and there are already prospects of being able to provide him with an assistant. In addition, it was recently found possible to make grants towards the distribution of the Bible in the French-speaking areas of Switzerland and in Alsace.

Side by side with these undertakings the SBG is now turning its attention to the question of accepting some permanent responsibility, in close collaboration with Swiss missionary movements and with the B.F.B.S., for the systematic distribution of the Bible in an area of South Africa hitherto somewhat neglected. The SBG will thus find itself faced with tasks beyond its present powers; they can only be fulfilled if the number of those contributing donations or engaging in propaganda on our behalf can be considerably increased. We feel we have grounds for hope that this will be the case, and we are confident that it is God's cause that we are serving. To fulfil His purpose and to walk in His way—together with our friends the world over, engaged in this same work—must always be the chief aim of the Swiss Bible Society.

Developments in Bible Society Work in Norway

Alf Hauge

OWING TO RISING PRODUCTION COSTS, the Norwegian Bible Society had to increase its selling prices from January, 1957. Instead of an anticipated decrease in distribution, especially of the most expensive editions, the distribution figures for 1957 exceeded the 1956 figures by 10 per cent. Three thousand more Bibles were sold than during the previous year and most came from the sale of the expensive editions. The great interest in Bible study groups is considered to be one of the reasons for this. The increasing Scripture circulation is, however, only one of the signs of a spiritual awakening in the Church.

During 1957 the demand for Scriptures in foreign languages was much greater than ever before. The growing number of refugees in the country has been of some significance. A main cause was that the leader of the French course on the radio read from the Bible and recommended the listeners to order French New Testaments from the Bible Society as text books. The response was greater than expected, and other teachers have followed his example.

Exhibitions

In June, one of the Oslo daily papers arranged an exhibition entitled "We young ones", aimed at giving to young people ideas and inspiration for all aspects of life. The Air Force, represented by a 'Thunderjet', invited the boys to the cockpit; scooters and everything on the list of desiderata were shown, and in one hall the Norwegian Bible Society had a stand along with the Scouts, the Santal Mission, the United Nations Association and others. One part of the stand was a complete display of Norwegian Scriptures. In another part pictures and posters gave information regarding Bible study groups, and in a third the world-wide work was presented as a task for youth. The stand turned out to be one of the most attractive of that kind and the Bible Society representative had some very busy days.

In four exhibitions of school materials in the main cities of Norway, the Bible Society also had its own stand and a representative. The contact made with teachers was very valuable.

Bible Sunday

Bible Sunday was not observed in Norway until 1950. An appeal from the bishops to the congregations to institute this practice, followed by yearly reminders from the Bible Society, has not been without effect, even if a general observance still seems remote.

The Bible Sunday in Trondheim this year—in spite of extraordinarily bad weather—was especially successful. The cathedral was filled for the morning service, when the bishop preached and emphasized the importance of Bible work.

In the afternoon another big church was nearly filled for a Bible Society meeting. About 30 representatives of every denomination and Christian organisation in the city read selected passages from the Bible. This great demonstration of oneness, based on the Bible, was the next day given much notice in the papers, and it was an inspiring starting point for the lecture on "The world's need for Bibles".

Bible Study Groups

In an increasing number of congregations the "Reaching, Teaching, Preaching Missions" have been taken up more or less according to the American pattern. In this work the Bible groups (neighbourhood groups) have turned out to be of particular significance. During the preparation, usually lasting half a year, parishioners who are going to take an active part come together in neighbourhood groups for Bible study and prayer. After the series of church meetings, newcomers are invited to attend a group, and so the follow-up is largely in the hands of the group. In some congregations 40-50 groups are active in this work.

The Home Secretary of the Norwegian Bible Society, the Rev. S. Smaadahl, visited 110 congregations in 1957 in order to promote this work. His instruction meetings for the group-leaders were attended by over 3,000 persons. The demand for help from the Bible Society in group work is so great that the Society has decided to appoint an assistant secretary for the northern part of the country.

The world-wide task

At the invitation of the American Bible Society, the Norwegian Bible Society has decided to assume responsibility for one-third of the cost of the joint agency in Uruguay and Paraguay. Collections are increasing and in the appeal to the Bible groups, much stress is laid on the need to take responsibility for work overseas in addition to that at home. Collecting boxes are sent to all the groups and the appeal from Rio de Janeiro (arising out of the U.B.S. Conference there in 1957) is being sent out to a large number of individuals.

Translation

The New Testament, translated for young readers, which has been in preparation for eight years, will be published at the end of 1958. It is intended to be used in schools and will be issued probably as a 'normal' book, with section headings, explanatory foot-notes and with some larger appendixes.

A new translation of the "Church Bible" into the two official Norwegian languages was started in 1957, after two years of thorough preparation. A large committee prepared the principles which were tried out in specimen translations of selected chapters, and at last adopted by the Board.

The existing translations, done in the 19th century, and in a very conservative spirit, are theologically as well as linguistically very out of date. The principles for the new translation open the way for a careful application of the progress this century in theological thought and for a modernising of the language even if unnecessary alterations in the wording have to be omitted.

Bible Work in Denmark

K. Jordt Jørgensen

THE DANISH BIBLE SOCIETY was founded in 1814. Since then, between four and five million copies of the Scriptures have been distributed in Denmark by that Society.

The aim of the Danish Bible Society is, according to paragraph one of its constitution, "to distribute Holy Scriptures, whole Bibles as well as portions, in the authorised versions". "The distribution", it continues, "should be done at low prices or, under special circumstances, entirely free of charge".

This paragraph deals with the way in which the Danish Bible Society came into existence. It had been discovered that Bibles were expensive and rare in Copenhagen. The average man in Denmark in those days was not able to buy a Bible and the Bible was not read in the homes. The purpose of the Bible Society would be both to make it possible for people to buy the Bible, and to encourage the reading of it.

The Society takes care of the Danish editions. In 1931 a new version of the Old Testament was completed and authorised by the King. In 1948 the new translation of the New Testament was authorised. In the same year the Ministry of Education in Copenhagen adopted a new Danish orthography which gave us not a little trouble and delayed the printing of the new Bibles to some extent, because the Ministry published only the basic principles of the new orthography that year, whereas a new orthographical dictionary was not issued until 1955. In the meantime the Danish Bible Society had to make its own suggestions with regard to orthography and the proof reading was a hard job!

Our edition of the New Testament most in demand is the so-called "Confirmation Testament", so named because it is widely used by Danish pastors in confirmation classes and by schools. It measures $15\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ cm., is bound in cloth and the price is only four crowns. Not a few of them are sold at half price, the number so sold in 1956 being more than ten thousand copies, or one fifth of the total. This edition is now going to be prepared in an entirely new size and with new type. It will be printed on better paper, the cloth cover will be blue instead of brown and the size longer and narrower.

The miniature Testament ($10 \times 7 \times 1$ cm.) is sold a good deal among young people. The Christian Young People's Associations, e.g. the Scouts, prefer this edition for camps and outings. They are also sold among soldiers.

The most popular edition of our Bibles is the so-called "pocket Bible" which, however, even if printed on very thin India paper does not fit into an ordinary modern pocket in Denmark! This, as far as I know, may also be the case with regard to pocket Bibles in other countries. The size of this Bible on thin paper is $20 \times 12 \times 2$ cm., while the cheaper edition is $17\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ cm. The cheap edition costs 15 crowns. Bound in leather and printed on thin paper

it is the most popular of our editions for gift purposes and the one which is bought by those who wish to study the Bible privately and in Bible classes. It is a reference Bible. The strange thing is that although it may be bought in pretty colours—blue, red or brown—people in our country, on the whole, prefer the old fashioned black binding. The octavo edition is printed with somewhat larger type and is chiefly sold to older people, but is also used in many churches as an altar Bible.

A New Testament edition with very large type is now in print. The type for this edition was chosen by eye specialists.

The quarto Bible, which also contains the apocrypha, is our regular altar Bible. The measurements are $29 \times 21\frac{1}{2}$ cm. It is bound in full leather, brown or black, with gold, and costs 100 crowns. It is sometimes sold as a "Family Bible" and has inserted in it plain white pages for personal data.

But the translation and printing of the Bible is not the only responsibility of the Danish Bible Society, for what is the use of distributing Bibles, if people do not read them? For many years now the Bible Society has printed a Bible reading plan, which is sent to all pastors who wish to have it for distribution in the churches on New Year's day. By means of this Bible reading plan, people may cover the New Testament within three years, together with some parts of the Old Testament. New Year's day is "Bible Sunday" in Denmark. On this day collections are taken in all churches for the work of the Danish Bible Society. In recent years the collections have amounted to a total of 110,000 crowns.

In this connection it should be remembered that the great majority of the Danish population belong to the Lutheran Church. But the small Methodist and Baptist bodies also collect gifts for the Bible Society and buy their Bibles from us.

In order to stimulate Bible reading in Denmark and to guide people who want to learn to know their Bible, commentaries and handbooks are prepared and printed by the Society. Commentaries are edited for all the books of the Bible, and a Concordance to the Old and New Testaments, a Synopsis of the Gospels and a Bible atlas were edited a few years ago.

The Danish Bible Society has only once published a Bible with illustrations, an octavo edition with 98 pictures by William Hole. It was never popular.

According to paragraph three of the constitution, the Society also wishes to keep in touch with foreign Bible Societies and to support the distribution of Bibles in foreign languages, in so far as its resources permit. Thus, some years ago, we supported the printing of a picture Bible in Greenland Eskimo. In more recent times we have contributed towards the cost of printing the Bible in Tamil and have started to print a new translation of the Faroese Bible. For many years we have also made a contribution towards the cost of producing Scriptures for the blind in Denmark.

The Danish Bible Society has a wide contact with the Danish people. The theological students, as soon as they have started at the university, receive as a gift from our Society a Hebrew Old Testament and a Greek New Testament. We also co-operate with the Christian Association for Commercial Travellers, which places Bibles in hotel rooms. The Scripture needs of Hungarian refugees in Denmark have also been taken care of by our Society.

Brussels World Exhibition . . .

THE BIBLE AT THE 1958 WORLD EXHIBITION

(I) In the Protestant Churches' Pavilion

Frans Visser

NOW THAT THE WORLD EXHIBITION in Brussels has been running for a month, I have become more than ever convinced that it was a wise decision on the part of the UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES to be represented in the Pavilion of the Protestant Churches there.

The entire exhibition is one impressive demonstration of what man can actually achieve, and of his ideals for the future. And then, right among these enormous buildings, there is this simple witness to Christ. The Protestant Churches of Belgium have accepted the risk of building a church and an exhibition hall on one of the busiest sites of the whole exhibition. A simple steeple, surmounted by three crosses, stands in front, and at a certain point close to one of the main entrances these three crosses are visible as a crown on top of the Atomium: Christ, the Lord of hosts, the King of the world. In a mosaic on the outer wall, Christ is shown addressing the nations of the world.

General view of Protestant Churches' Pavilion

So, in the first place, there is a church which can accommodate 250 visitors. It is a very simple yet solemn chapel, in which services are held every afternoon and evening in French, English, German or Dutch. I have been told that such a thing has never happened before in a World Exhibition of this kind. A peculiarity of these services is that they are held within the exhibition itself, seeking to relate the Christian message with the potentialities and ideals of contemporary man. This is splendidly illustrated by some of the prayers that are used regularly, of which I quote the following:

"Bless, O Lord, the endeavours to make this Exhibition a brotherly concourse of nations and races, by which men learn to know and love each other better and are led to work together for the common good of all".

"Quicken Thy Church, O Lord, with Thine own Spirit, that she may truly be 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world', opposing everywhere all the powers of evil, and exercising the influence of that truly Christian Spirit, which alone can bring about a better world".

"Almighty God, we give thanks unto Thee for the wonderful achievements of science and techniques which are so strikingly displayed in this Exhibition. Keep under Thy protection, O Lord, the worthy fruits of civilization. Preserve them from the corrupting power of selfishness, greed, hatred and other manifestations of our evil nature".

This same attitude towards the display of the Exhibition is found again in the exhibition hall, which is connected with the church. This exhibition starts with a challenge not to forget man in distress, among all the great and enormous achievements of our time. And then the Cross follows: Christ Who shares this distress and Who loves this world.

The third part of the exhibition is devoted to the Book which proclaims this good news—the Bible. Here an open Bible is displayed for anybody to turn over the leaves. Then follows a panel with one Bible text in twenty languages, each of them faced by a portrait of a person who speaks that language as his mother tongue. The text is: All things are yours; and you are Christ's; and Christ is God's. (I Corinthians 3:21b, 23). A good deal of conversation goes on in this corner. Here people recognise their own tongue and reflect on what it means to be a Christian in this world. And at the same time, this polyglot stand gives an impression of the Bible as a world book. This impression is further confirmed by a graph, which shows the march of Bible translation work since the time of the Reformation.

A second graph aims at stimulating support of Bible Society work. This shows that every year 25 million babies are born and some 10 million adults are taught to read, but that in the same period only 6 million Bibles and New Testaments are distributed, so that the Bible Societies still have a long way to go before they realise their ideal of "every man his own Bible in his own tongue".

This corner of the exhibition is the contribution of the U.B.S., but apart from this the rest of the exhibition in this pavilion illustrates subjects such as the Bible in the Church, in colportage work and in pastoral care, and Bible reading

individually and in the family. And when the visitor has studied all this material, he will find a Bible booth outside where Bibles in many tongues are on sale and Scripture booklets and leaflets distributed free of charge.

Not a single name is mentioned throughout the whole of the pavilion; no man's, no Church's and no organisation's. Everything points to one person: Christ. And this causes the pavilion, in all its simplicity, to rise above all the propaganda and self-glorification which is so abundantly apparent all over the Exhibition as a whole.

On some days the World Exhibition is visited by half a million people; an attendance of 250,000 is not at all unusual Many thousands of them pass by the pavilion of the Protestant Churches, but nevertheless they notice that it is there, and they see the three crosses showing above the Atomium. Many hundreds take a further step and, within the pavilion, sense something of its message: that Christ is with us "alway, even unto the end of the world". (Matthew 28:20b).

Do not imagine, however, that the pavilion of the Protestant Churches is the only place in the World Exhibition in which to find some trace of the Bible. There is, in the first place, the pavilion of the "Luminous Bible", built by the Belgian Bible Society, of which its General Secretary, the Rev. P. Caufriez, will no doubt have something to say. Here again, there is a Bible booth where many Bibles are sold and conversations held. But in yet other places one can meet the Bible. In the large Belgian pavilion devoted to the graphic arts, publications of the Belgian Bible Society are displayed among others; they even fill a separate showcase. In the small, but splendid pavilion of Israel, the Bible is exhibited as the nation's history book and quoted from in many places. Here also the Habakkuk scroll, found near the Dead Sea in 1947, is displayed. In the enormous palace erected by the Roman Catholic Church, much attention is also given to the Bible, its history as a book, its place in ecclesiastical life and its message for to-day. In the huge building of Soviet Russia the Bible in Russian is shown in its newest edition of the Patriarchate (1956). Again, in the French, Czech, Austrian and German pavilions, the Bible is given a place. That the Bible is central to the missionary activity is also made clear by the Bible Societies' exhibit in the section of the Protestant Mission in the Congo pavilion.

I would conclude on a note of thankfulness for what has been achieved here through the international co-operation of the Bible Societies. The representation of the Bible in the Exhibition was rendered possible through that co-operation which is embodied in the U.B.S. The Belgian Bible Society alone could never have achieved this result. We ought to thank the Bible Societies which have already contributed towards the costs involved. It may be that this article will induce other Bible Societies to set aside funds for this purpose.

But a call for prayer should not be omitted. In Brussels many people are busy with this Bible Society work, which aims to reach many people with the Book of books and its contents. May God use all this human effort to prepare the coming of His Kingdom.

A copy of one of the two leaflets produced by the Bible Societies for distribution at the Brussels Exhibition is inserted in this issue of the Bulletin.

(II) At "Expobible"

P. Caufriez

THE BIBLE PAVILION erected by the Belgian Bible Society at the Universal Exhibition in Brussels, mainly with the help of local evangelical groups, includes a large structure, in the form of a huge Bible, mounted on supports so that it can be seen from a distance, across which passages from the Bible move, in French, Flemish, English, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

In the evening this illuminated text can easily be read by visitors to the Atomium and by the crowds as they leave the Exhibition by the World Gate. Many people have already come to purchase a Bible after having had their interest caught from a distance by the illuminated text.

A world map, 11 yards long, is fixed on the outside wall of the pavilion along one street. This map, entitled "One Book—1,100 languages" has mounted on it 80 photographic enlargements, in relief, of verses chosen from "The Gospel in Many Tongues". Groups of school children who pass in front of this linguistic map are glad to stop there. Many of the people who come into the pavilion ask questions about the number of languages in which the Bible has been translated. The Scriptures (Bibles, New Testaments and Gospels) in three hundred languages, which we have displayed in our windows or keep in our cupboards, are always a source of attraction.

The Bible stall at the "Expobible" with two staff members of the Belgian Bible Society answering enquiries.

The "Expobible". Bible text runs along the dark band shown in the picture by means of electric lights.

Cameras are very often focussed on the inside wall of the pavilion. Here, the central message of the Bible in the work of love accomplished by Christ for all men, is pointed out by means of a freize of photographs, 11 yards long, surmounted by a large black chain and a cross in teak, as well as by a yellow arrow made of wire netting. The photographs often arouse questions and discussion, and when such conversations are entered into, they nearly always end in the sale of a Bible. The volunteers who help us are able to give the necessary explanations in French, Flemish, English, German, Spanish, Russian, Polish, etc.

One show window contains reproductions of important manuscripts, in particular a reconstruction of the scroll of Isaiah (Dead Sea) and of the Codex Bodmer II, the oldest known manuscript of the Gospel of John. In another window are displayed old Bibles in Flemish, French and German. These documents of academic and historical interest invariably hold the attention of the priests who visit the pavilion.

Up to the present, the daily sale of Bibles, New Testaments and Gospels has amounted to about Belgian francs 1,000 a day, with more on Sundays and holidays. Every day, in addition, Bibles in languages of more distant countries are asked for and we are sometimes unable to meet such requests, when we do not have the Scriptures available.

The voluntary helpers distribute many hundreds of Bible portions every day: The Sermon on the Mount, Paroles de Vie (Words of Life), Mensch, wo bist Du? (Man, where do you stand?), Tod und Leben (Death and Life), etc. All the Portions are supplied by various Bible Societies and by the Scripture Gift Mission.

Our "Illuminated Bible Pavilion" indeed seems to fulfil its promise, judging by the interest shown by those who visit it. The following give some indication of that interest:

—a family from New Zealand states that it has been stirred by its visit and promises to read again the Bible it has neglected;

—coming straight up to the pavilion, with a military step, a German tackles the colporteur in charge of the counter with: "Your Bible begins with a lie. God created nothing at all". The colporteur replies: "Why do you tell a lie in order to say what you have in your mind?" A lively conversation follows; another German visitor intervenes, bearing witness to the benefit which the Bible has brought to him. Our warrior retires, impressed with what he has heard;

—and yet another case: "Please—I have come back to you to-day, as our conversation yesterday has made me return to buy a Bible".

—another: Someone from the armed forces comes along. He bought a New Testament a few days ago. Now he asks for a small Bible study outline.

The activity of the pavilion extends beyond the area on which it is built, because of the illuminated text and the effect of the large inscription "La Bible. le Livre de Dieu pour tous les hommes" (The Bible, the Book of God for all men). Several people have already come up to us asking: "Was it here that I saw the 'illuminated newspaper' yesterday? Could I have a copy of the text?"

Our Illuminated Bible Pavilion does not get large crowds of visitors. Often one "cannot see the wood for the trees", and when one is in the midst of a crowd, one can no longer think clearly. But the situation of our pavilion, slightly off the beaten track, enables visitors to take time to listen or to ask fundamental questions.

(III) In the Congo Pavilion

H. Wakelin Coxill

BEING WELL SITUATED within the huge 'Palais du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi', the stand of the Protestant Missions attracts a great number of visitors. They have, on several occasions, been counted entering the stand at more than 1,500 an hour. The stand is open all day, seven days a week.

Visitors are soon reminded of the central place the Bible holds in the work and witness of the Protestant Missions, for right in the centre of the stand is a charming sculptural group, designed and executed specially for the stand by the Belgian artist, Jean Canneel, which shows a Congolese family around an open Bible.

Elsewhere, as one of the special exhibits, is a showcase of Bibles in different Congo languages. This also attracts considerable attention.

Among the many photographs displayed, which illustrate something of the evangelistic and educational work of the missions, are many pictures showing how the Bible is being taught, read and used.

A panel of statistics draws attention to the fact that the whole Bible has been translated into 12 different Congo languages and the New Testament into 36. Many Scripture portions are also on view.

In some of the films being constantly shown in the small cinema and conference hall of the Protestant Missions' stand, the importance of the Bible in teaching and preaching is well illustrated.

An exhibit that attracts considerable attention is the actual press first used by the Swedish Mission in Matadi in 1886 on which, at that early date, Scripture portions and the Book of Acts were printed.

In addition, African and European helpers have been able to distribute freely thousands of copies of "The Words of Life" in French, Flemish, German, Italian and English, which have been supplied through the Belgian Bible Society, as well as an attractive leaflet, in French, on the Bible in the Congo, supplied by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Bible Exhibit at Drupa Exhibition

Alfred Müller

SOME 40,000 VISITORS, mainly from Europe but also from other continents, visited the DRUPA exhibition (an international fair specialising in printing and paper) at Düsseldorf in May. The exhibition takes place every four years and, as in 1950 and 1954, this year there were displayed, in ten large halls, the latest samples of printing and paper-making.

The Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Trade of the German Republic, Professor, Dr. Erhard, opened the exhibition and, in doing so, quoted the text: "Man does not live by bread alone". This text was given in ancient Greek, English, French, Dutch and German, or large cloth sheets, which formed the background of a display of Bibles arranged by the Union of German Bible Societies. In reporting on this display the West German radio described it as one of the most interesting and valuable in the whole DRUPA exhibition. It is a fact that the stand attracted the interest, at all hours of the day, of adults and in a special way of young people.

The theme of the display was: "Contemporary Bible printing, 1945-1958"; the Bibles, Testaments and Portions exhibited were the production of the Bible Societies which belong to the United Bible Societies.

The scholarly editions of the Stuttgart Bible Society (Biblia Hebraica, Novum Testamentum Graece, Concordances, etc.), and the Scriptures—New

Testaments and Portions in the latest revision of the Luther text adopted by the churches (1956) and those in Roman type and modern presentation—aroused great interest. Special attention was attracted by the very modern and stirring pictures of Isaiah produced by the Berlin Bible Society and by the Passion story, in line and colour. The Altenburg Bible Society (East Berlin) and the Lutheran Publishing House of Berlin had made available their beautiful Bibles and lectionaries, and these received much attention and admiration.

"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God". (Matthew 4:4). This saying of Jesus, given in five languages on the cloth sheets, was what specially attracted foreign and German visitors to the stall with copies of the Scriptures from all the world. Long discussions often took place there about the illustrated editions ("The Man in the Street", "La Bonne Nouvelle", "Lijden en Heerlijkheid", "Det Glaedelige Budskab", "Vaer Ikke Redde", etc.). It was also very noticeable how "picture hungry" people of to-day are. The specialists, on the other hand, scrutinised very closely the Scriptures exhibited, from the point of view of the paper used, printing and binding, taking away with them impressions and new ideas.

But the spoken and missionary interest in the Word of God was also evident: Bible publications of recent years for the foreign mission field (e.g. Bulu, Bandi, Tigrinya, Jabêm, Truk and Scriptures for the Sudan, Japan, Korea, Malaya and Indonesia), which were shown in large display windows, proved the greatest attraction to visitors and enlarged their view of the extent and significance of the task of the Bible Societies in the world. It was interesting that of the 63 Scriptural entries, 53 were published by the Bible Societies.

The DRUPA Bible exhibit of 1958 was an encouraging success and helped to open new vistas for many who otherwise had little or no knowledge of the work of the Bible Societies and of the efforts made by them towards a more up-to-date presentation of the Word of God. The Union of German Bible Societies thanks all the member Societies of the U.B.S. which kindly made available specimens of their beautiful Bible productions for this purpose.

Part of the exhibition of Bibles at the DRUPA exhibition

AUDIO VISUAL AIDS SECTION

Some Recent Developments in A-V-A "Tools"

D. W. Lomax

ON 1ST JANUARY, 1957, there was set up in London the long-awaited Overseas Audio-Visual Centre at 6 Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4. The Director is Mr. D. W. Lomax and the Centre represents: Baptist Missionary Society, British and Foreign Bible Society, Church Missionary Society (Anglican), Conference of Missionary Societies in Great Britain and Ireland, London Mission Society (Congregational), Methodist Missionary Society, Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, Universities' Mission to Central Africa and the World Council of Christian Education and Sunday School Association.

The Centre has grown out of a pilot overseas scheme which has been carried on by the Church Missionary Society for the past four years. During that time over half the Society's missionaries have been given a personal service, as well as many missionaries from other Societies. The Centre now has 3,500 missionaries to serve.

A full programme of training courses has been arranged to introduce missionaries to the range of aids available and to inspire them to undertake individual instruction in their use. It is essential that all concerned with the use of aids should realise that they are tools and not substitutes for the teacher and that, most important of all, their effectiveness is not in proportion to their cost. Audio Visual Aids are a method of communication and as such are only likely to be effective if they take their place as part of an organised campaign.

The supply service of the Centre, although designed to help people going overseas from this country, may be of special value to those of other countries working in the sterling areas of the world. In these areas the electricity supply is often according to the British system, and so it is from this country that apparatus should be supplied that will operate effectively on 230v 50 cycles instead of the American standards of 110v 60 cycles.

A number of new religious filmstrips appear on the market every month. They are usually of two types. The first attempts to reconstruct the Bible narrative with photographs of living people and these are often pictures taken at the same time that a movie film is produced. The second type, of which there are fewer, provides a visual presentation of the background to the Bible.

Recent examples of this type of filmstrip are two strips of over 70 frames each in colour, entitled "Palestine in Jesus' Day" in two parts, and "The Life of Paul" in one part. The art work and colour is of a very high order and as the strips contain about twice as many frames as the usual colour filmstrip, the price of £2. 2s. 0d. for Parts 1 and 2 of "Palestine in Jesus' Day" and £1. 5s. 0d. for

"Life of Paul" represent exceptionally good value. These filmstrips are released by Carwal Ltd. but can be purchased by missionaries from the Overseas Audio Visual Centre, where they can be viewed by appointment.

A unique set of evangelistic filmstrips of the "Jungle Doctor Fables" are being marketed by the Church Army. The titles are "Out on a Limb" (27 frames: price £1. 1s. 0d.), "Monkey, mirror and red paint" (44 frames: £1. 5s. 0d.) and "The Goat who wanted to become a Lion" (46 frames: £1. 5s. 0d.). The fable is in each instance told by high quality photographs of animal puppets. Those who know the Jungle Doctor Fables will appreciate that quite new ground in evangelistic filmstrips is being broken by these strips.

Three-dimensional visual aids have an appeal all of their own. As communications improve, so people living in different countries feel they are being brought closer together. Missionaries and nationals, each members of their local church, are gradually beginning to realise that this local church is part of a much wider world communion. Most people are fascinated by a globe and this is proved when visitors to the Centre almost invariably look at an 18-in. globe which is prominently displayed. The conventional globe of this size is costly in this country, but its price of approximately £20 abroad makes it prohibitive. The globe displayed in the Centre is unique in that it is not only exceptionally clear, but it is made of *plastic* and is inflated like a balloon. This form of construction means that it can be posted abroad for only a few shillings and its initial price of £5 brings it within the means of institutions and individuals who have long wanted such an aid but have never been able to afford it.

Open-air preaching is a well proved method of proclaiming the Gospel, but only those who have tried it know what a strain on the voice it can be when no efficient public address system is available. We have all heard raucous public loud speakers which so distort the voice of the speaker that we cringe at the thought of such apparatus being used for evangelism.

The Centre has supplied a number of 12v battery operated public address systems capable of serving 5,000 people in the open-air, and enthusiastic reports have been received saying how valuable such apparatus was for open-air evangelism. Overseas workers have found to their cost that not all apparatus which works well at home will give good service in the tropics. This is particularly true of anything of an electrical nature, and the Centre is very careful only to recommend the purchase of equipment which has been proved efficient under tropical conditions.

Technically minded readers may have heard of transistors and be tempted to purchase radio sets and amplifiers which use transistors in place of valves. This is something we do not recommend for overseas use, because the type of transistor at present available is not suitable for operation in tropical temperatures, though tropical types will become available in due course.

The Centre is well aware of the value of Bible pictures and flannelgraphs and many are supplied. As with filmstrips, there are comparatively few which can be recommended for overseas use and in the tropics their preservation is a problem. There is a great need for production of really simple large Bible pictures and Bible story flannelgraphs in a quality of art work which is worthy of the subject they seek to portray.

The Centre is concerned with the production of an experimental flannelgraph of the type which missionaries need for open-air work with village audiences, and if our experiments are successful, news of such material will eventually be forthcoming.

Over and above its use as an information supply and training organisation, the Centre provides a "place of meeting" for people of all denominations and differing backgrounds and also for those who may own no Christian allegiance. In this way we hope a means may be provided for the Holy Spirit to knit those of us who make use of audio visual aids in the cause of the Gospel into a deeper sense of mission and unity. We should welcome the prayers of readers.

We shall, of course, always be glad to welcome any fellow-workers who happen to be passing through London or to undertake anything on their behalf.

Promotion Work through Audio-Visual Aids

Alfred Müller

IN FEBRUARY, 1956—when I had been secretary of the Union of Evangelical Bible Societies in Germany for six months—I spent a few weeks in England and Scotland, getting to know the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society and the National Bible Society of Scotland. One aspect of the work of these two Societies which particularly impressed me was the great amount of publicity they carried out among the general public.

In a small booklet entitled ".... die Bibel unter die Leute zu bringen" (Bringing the Bible to the people), I have described to German readers an experience which I had just as I arrived in Dover. An official in the Customs House asked me the purpose of my visit to England. I told him I came as the guest of the Bible Societies and wished to learn from them. Thereupon he replied: "I myself am a member of the Bible Society. Best wishes for your stay in England. Just close your suitcase. Everything's all right, Sir".

A foreign visitor to Germany would have to wait a long time before he met anyone—a non-theologian—who could even say a few words about our Bible Societies.

This is not a good thing and Pastor Steiner—Chairman of our Union of Bible Societies—and I have, during the past two years, thought and planned a great deal, and we have already put some of our plans into operation, with a view to making our Bible work known among Protestant Christians in western Germany.

I will give an account here of one way in which we have tried to come nearer to this goal in recent times. Once again the beginning of this was in England—

indeed in the Bible House in London. There I saw a collection of very interesting slides about B.F.B.S. Scripture distribution in various countries of the world. About 50 of these slides were sent to me; these became the basis of a collection which, in the meantime, has grown to around 2,000. Many of them, in colour, I have taken myself; the majority have been bought. In our collection to-day there are:

(1) slides available in Germany, showing (*a*) the history of the Bible text and of the Bible as a publication, (*b*) the geographical-historical background of the Bible stories, (*c*) the archaeological findings of the Bible;

(2) an almost complete set of slides on the theme, "The Bible reading people", photographed from originals in German museums and art galleries as well as documentary photos from everyday life of to-day;

(3) extensive material on Bible illustration, from the earliest days up to the present time;

(4) slides on the themes "The Bible in the life of the Church—on Sundays and in everyday life", and "The light thrown by the Bible on our cultural life and our customs and habits";

(5) slides illustrating "The world-wide work of the Bible Societies". Each slide is catalogued. The contents of this "slide library" are available not only to our three Bible missionaries in west Germany and west Berlin, but also to our Bible Societies and to anyone who wishes to borrow them for illustrated lectures. The collection is, of course, not complete; we are making efforts particularly to increase the number of slides under the fifth section given above.

But we have also come to the conclusion that alongside the "visual" material, there is a second area of modern "aids" that can also be very useful in our publicity service, namely in the realm of "acoustics", that is to say, the tape-recorder. In our experience during recent months, in both towns and villages, a lecture which is accompanied and supported by pictures and soundtrack can always expect an attentive audience, that is to say lookers and listeners.

The occasion for beginning our collection of tape-recordings was again a little fortuitous. In the Spring of last year I bought a tape-recorder. A few weeks later I was invited to attend the Conference of the World Committee for Christian Broadcasting, at Cronberg Castle, near Frankfurt-am-Main. At this conference I got to know a great many people engaged in broadcasting in many different countries. Then it occurred to me to ask a representative of the various nations and areas of the world to say a passage from the Bible into my microphone. They did not all have their Bible with them, so we agreed on a passage which we knew by heart: the message of the angel from the Christmas story, from Luke 2:14. In this way I recorded this verse in ten different languages. Since then this recording has been used in our lectures at Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. While the voices are speaking, we show slides of the men who recorded them, as well as of Bible distribution in their countries. In this way the world-wide message of the Gospel is brought much more clearly to the eyes and ears of the audience, than is possible through the words of a report alone.

Another example: In some of the more agricultural areas of Germany, Plattdeutsch is spoken. Many years ago the B.F.B.S. printed a New Testament in Plattdeutsch which is still distributed and gladly read. We recorded one of the nowadays rare church services in Plattdeutsch, in one of the old churches on the North Sea, and we are always very happy that we have this beautiful item in our collection.

A third example: We are in process in Germany of revising the wording of our Luther Bible. This is a work in which we are anxious to interest the evangelical Christians in Germany. One can, of course, give straight lectures about the necessity and significance of this Bible revision. We do that too. But here again we are able to demonstrate it audio-visually. While on the screen pictures appear of a meeting of the revision committee, at which a few theologians can be seen, as well as many copies of the Bible—the old and new German version and foreign language editions—the tape-recorder reproduces the discussion of the participants in connection with some of the passages which are specially striking for the revision. In this way those attending our lectures themselves become witnesses of our theological and philological work on the text of the Bible.

Meanwhile we possess much valuable musical material, beginning with the Gregorian chants and the liturgy of the Russian Church, and going through Bach and Handel to Negro spirituals. As far as possible we always concentrate, in making our selection, on works which are a musical interpretation of passages from the Bible. (e.g. the part of the Evangelist from Bach's St. Matthew Passion, etc.)

At the present time we are busy, among other things, with the following: we are concerned to make those who attend our lectures conscious, with the help of visual and oral means, of the significance of the Bible for our Christian and Church life. With this in view we are preparing, for example, pictures and recordings of christening, confirmation and marriage services, silver wedding and burial ceremonies; of family prayers in the morning, with father reading the Bible, of evening prayers, of a youth group by the camp fire, of 'care of souls' with Bible reading in hospitals and old people's homes, of Bible study in a local parish group and in an Academy (conference centre), of the biblical introduction to a Land Synod and at one of the Kirchentage. Such audio-visual documentation is, of course, nothing new for our audiences. That is not the intention. But seen as a whole, this material gives a mosaic picture of "life with the Bible" in home, community and church, and helps to restore the Bible to a place of importance and trust in the life of the Christian.

In assessing the value of this whole work, one must take into consideration the fact that we in Germany are at the beginning of a new development in our Bible Society work. The means at our disposal permit us neither to purchase expensive film equipment nor to produce our own films, nor even to synchronise films from Bible Societies in other countries. It is thus primarily our financial situation which causes us to undertake a publicity service on a rather modest scale.

Of course, we have been able to establish—in common with church and missionary films in Germany—that work with filmstrips and tape-recorder has certain advantages over the sound film. The film is "moving", but in its showing is rather "static". It cannot take into account the kind of audience it is being

shown to: whether adults or young people, whether simple or educated people, whether active Christians or those who are out of touch with the church. On the contrary, for a lecture with pictures and live commentary, the selection of slides and commentary can always be adapted for each group, according to its composition and its special interests and needs. The commentary of the lecturer to a great extent arises out of the personal contact and atmosphere on each occasion.

What we in Germany still need for extending our audio-visual material, is documentation about the work of Bible Societies throughout the world. We are grateful for any hints and suggestions. For our part we are always ready and glad to share more precise information about this branch of our promotion work. Our address is: Von-der-Tann-Strasse 17, Wuppertal-Elberfeld, Germany.

Broadcasting The Bible*

E. H. Robertson

BIBLE READING HAS ALWAYS been the basis of certain radio programmes. The Bible is, after all, the book which has been more often read aloud than any other book. In fact, most of the classic translations seem to have been written largely *for* reading aloud, and even some of the modern translations.

Some years ago, the B.B.C. decided to dramatize the *Book of Jonah*, and it was discovered that—with the alteration of only a very few words—the entire book could be used. By using different voices, by the suitable interjection of music and by the unusual device of having the words of God sung by a bass voice, the whole book was brought alive—without any need for a commentator.

For a matter of years the B.B.C. has used such dramatic interludes in its school (broadcast) programming. It is thought that, for a group of children, the interest can be more effectively held if the incident from the Bible is dramatized rather than merely described . . . . The only questions are whether these dramatized incidents really penetrate and how long their message is retained. Television faces this truth in an acute way. When the B.B.C. televised "A Life of Christ", children remembered the very appearance and dress of those taking part. The question still to be answered, however, is how much they understood the real meaning.

Both radio and television still have to face the issue as to whether they intend merely to have "good programmes" or whether they intend to convey the full Bible message. It may be possible to do both—but, certainly, neither every good programme nor every popular programme conveys that full message.

* *Extracts from an article published in "The Christian Broadcaster," January, 1958.*

Audio-Visual Aid Notes

Films

The Rev. L. R. King, Secretary of the B.F.B.S. Audio-Visual Aid department, gives the following data on the latest B.F.B.S. film, "The Leaves of the Tree" (see also BULLETIN 32, p. 187):

This film, which tells the story of the Tigrinya Bible, was produced by Raymond Kinsey in association with our Visual Aids department in Bible House. Commentators are Mary Wimbush and Alvar Lidell, both of the B.B.C. Photography is by James Normington and music composed by John Hotchkis, is played by the Goldsbrough Orchestra. The cordial and valuable assistance of William Clowes & Sons Ltd., Wolvercote Paper Mills, the Saugsbrugsforeningen and the Swedish Mission is gratefully acknowledged. The film runs for 32 minutes. It is in natural colour and may be hired for 15s. a showing, on application to Bible House, London.

Several shots in the film show the preparation of pulp and paper in Scandinavia, the people's life in Ethiopia, the printing of the Bible by offset process in Britain, the arrival of the Scriptures in Ethiopia and a visit to the late Mrs. E. Winqvist, the translator, who a few weeks before her death at the age of 95 years, had the joy of seeing her life's labour come to completion.

The Lutheran Film Service (16-22 Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1), is now distributing a series of fourteen colour films on Old Testament figures. The films were produced for Concordia Films of St. Louis, U.S.A. by Family Films, Inc., of Hollywood, and were directed by Sam Hersh and Victor Growcock. The films were shot on location in California and professional actors were engaged for their production, which began after more than two years of writing and research. Each episode runs for 17 minutes. The spoken text follows closely to the biblical narrative and scenes are carefully linked together by narration so as to allow a satisfactory continuity.

The characters depicted are: Abraham, man of faith; Jacob, bearer of the promise; Joseph, the young man; Joseph, ruler of Egypt; Moses, called by God; Moses, leader of God's people; Joshua, the conqueror; Gideon, the liberator; Ruth, a faithful woman; Samuel, a dedicated man; David, a young hero; David, King of Israel; Solomon, a man of wisdom; Elijah, a fearless prophet.

Filmstrips

From clay tablet to world book. Under this title, the Netherlands Bible Society recently issued a new filmstrip on how the Bible came to people in the past and comes to them to-day: on clay tablets in the very early days of God's people; on papyrus and parchment later; by hand-writing in the middle ages; then in printed form since Gutenberg. Following this main theme, the story goes into various interesting digressions on Hebrew writing and the use of Greek words in modern European languages, on Tischendorff and his story and on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Rev. F. Visser, who prepared this filmstrip, was careful to restrict himself to Dutch material and background but widened the field of interest so as to make the film useable in other countries as well. Accompanying notes exist in English also. The filmstrip consists of 28 frames in black and white. It can be obtained,

with English script, for five Dutch guilders from the Netherlands Bible Society, Amsterdam.

*

The Bible Society of India and Ceylon has recently issued a revised edition of the filmstrip *The Bible Society at work in India and Ceylon.* This new filmstrip follows very much the same outline as the previous edition: the beginning of Bible work in India; translation, production and distribution work to-day; the use of the Bible in the life of the individual and of the church, in the evangelistic approach to people in conjunction with other evangelistic means. However a good many pictures have been replaced by new ones of higher quality. The revised strip consists of 48 single frames and copies either in strip form or in 2in. × 2in. frames can be obtained from the B.S.I.C. headquarters in Bangalore, at Rupees 4.

*

The British & Foreign Bible Society contributes the following notes on recent productions of their Visual Aid Department:

Bolivian Byways

In this lecture Dr. N. J. Cockburn presents a panorama of the work among Quechua and Ayoreo Indians, their markets and cities and recent signs of industrial development in this ancient land of the Incas. There are excellent pictures from the high Andes and Lake Titicaca. There are views of the semi-forested plains and grasslands, the flowers and tropical trees. All this beauty contrasts with the lives of many of the people but is relieved by the evangelistic work of the Church aided by the Bible Societies in a country of great opportunity.

With the Mapuche Indians

From a land 2,800 miles long and no more than 150 miles wide, the "Mad Geography" of Chile is illustrated in another fine series of pictures in colour from Dr. Cockburn. The part played by the Bible Societies in supplying the Scriptures to the Araucanian Indians is depicted against a background of history, customs and scenic beauty.

The land of the New Testament story

A beautiful set of slides in colour matched with Dr. Cockburn's notes, packed with information about the ancient holy places of Palestine and the religious bodies who live there. The pictures are linked with events of the life of our Lord with appropriate quotations from the New Testament.

New exhibition stand

The B.F.B.S. A.V.A. Secretary, the Rev. L. R. King, informs us that in order to bring the task of world Bible circulation to the notice of a new public, an exhibition has been specially designed for the B.F.B.S., for use at Agricultural Shows and Trade Exhibitions. The stand, which is 30 ft. long, is in three sections:

(*a*) *Production*: this bears statistics of circulation, cost and tonnage on five panels alternating with pictures taken at a large printing works. The stages of making a Bible from the stereo plate to the finished Book are displayed.

(*b*) *Distribution*: this is a large centrepiece showing a ploughed field with the Sower striding across the furrows. Photographs of Bible Houses, Mobile Bookshops, colporteurs and other means of distributing the Scriptures are seen. There is a hidden panel which, when removed, reveals a back projection screen for showing films.

(*c*) *Translation*: bearing the title "One Book—854 languages", this panel illustrates the vast scope of Scripture translation in five continents. The design resembles section 1, the total number of versions alternating with squares showing portraits of nationals from each continent. The lower section is given to displaying various translations of the Scriptures and there is information concerning world languages.

News From All The World

Africa: French West and Equatorial

The Rev. E. M. Roulet, B.F.B.S. representative for the French territories south of the Sahara, reports an increase of over 60% in the agency's sales in 1957 as against the previous year.

Circulation would be considerably higher, Mr. Roulet reports, if existing translations could be revised so as to adopt the French orthography, since French is the first language children are taught to read, and readers become confused when they encounter unknown diacritical signs or a way of spelling out sounds which differs from the one learned at school. This, Mr. Roulet recognises, is a vast programme which is bound to take time and to meet with many difficulties. The help of a well-trained linguist would greatly contribute towards the solution of these problems.

At present, Bible translation work is being carried out in 60 languages of the area. In 35 of them the Scriptures will be published for the first time. The translation of new books is proceeding in 16 languages where some portion of the Scripture has already been published. Bibles are in preparation in Bassa, Bambara, Mossi, Sango and the New Testament is being revised in five languages. Four Bible Societies are involved in this work along with the B.F.B.S., which bears the main responsibility (76 languages). They are the American Bible Society, the National Bible Society of Scotland, the Netherlands Bible Society and the Norwegian Bible Society.

Mr. Roulet also reports that Bibles and Testaments are being placed in the rooms of the main hotels of Abidjan, Dakar and Konakri. Similar plans are afoot for Douala and other cities of the area.

Africa: East Equatorial

The first Bible House of Equatorial Africa has been completed in Nairobi according to schedule. It was put into operation early in June and it is hoped to have the official inauguration, by a Government representative, in the middle of July. The new Bible House includes space for storage of important stocks of Scriptures, a bookshop, offices for the agency secretary and accommodation for the caretaker. New staff has been appointed to run the bookshop and the warehouse and to handle the Scriptures for all East Equatorial Africa which will now be stored in Nairobi. The erection of the new Bible House was necessitated by the great extension of Bible work in those parts in recent years and by the fact that missionary bookshops, which used to store Scriptures, have been turned into commercial enterprises and may not be in a position later on to offer the same facilities as previously.

Africa: South

We have received the following notes on the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society in South Africa, from the Rev. T. Hawthorn, secretary in Johannesburg:

At a time when South Africa's destiny is hanging in the balance, the Bible Society can make all the difference. Our latest local annual report, entitled "The Power and the Glory", makes the point that not money power, not industrial power, nor even political power is the decisive factor in the Union of South Africa,

but spiritual power, which can change the hearts of men.

Attention is drawn to the generation of power by the contributions for Bible Society work in South Africa which, in 1957, amounted to £93,923, an increase of 30% over the previous year, itself a record. However, a further effort is needed, particularly among the English-speaking population and churches (almost half of the European population), whose contrition to the work so far represents less than 10% of the total contributions.

An all-nation mail canvassing campaign has been inaugurated by the Agency, with a view to increasing by £100,000 the amount of capital funds needed for the production and storage of Holy Scriptures in the languages of the country. The Governor-General, Mr. E. G. Jansen, wrote a message commending the campaign.

The response to the appeal so far has been satisfactory.

Interest is also focussed on the "transmission of power" through the three Bible depots in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. Mr. Hawthorn reports that a new depot, with greatly improved facilities, was to be opened on 26th June in Johannesburg by His Worship the Mayor, with representatives of all the Protestant denominations present.

The Agency has also recently carried out successful efforts for achieving increased Scripture circulation through the ordinary book trade.

But the generation of power and its distribution is aimed at its application to the needs of the general public. South Africans are becoming aware of the true enemy at the door. There is a sense of awakening. For example, a section of the Church of the Province (predominately Anglo-Catholic) is having a "Back to the Bible" campaign.

Youth groups, women's associations and church congregations generally are overwhelming the Bible Society secretaries with invitations to address gatherings, show films and hold meetings all over the Union. There is a feeling of urgency. Men know that this is a time of testing for South Africa.

The Bible Society knows that Christ is the answer. It is committed to bringing Him to as many people as quickly as possible, through the power of the Word.

The Rev. G. E. Bruwer, Organising Secretary for the Bible Society in Cape Town, writes:

On Monday, 2nd June, 1958, South Africa celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the arrival of the first Afrikaans Bibles from Bible House, London. To mark the occasion of this Silver Jubilee, there was a special gathering in the Cape Town Bible House and the three millionth Afrikaans Bible, a very handsome volume bound in pure white Persian morocco and printed on finest India paper, was handed to His Honour the Administrator of the Cape Province, Dr. J. H. O. du Plessis.

The three million Afrikaans Bibles, New Testaments and Portions that have been sold in this quarter of a century must surely constitute something of a record, since the distribution took place amongst the Afrikaans-speaking population which comprises 1,626,000 "Whites" and 1,319,000 "Coloureds", a total of just under 3,000,000. We circulated last year over 148,000 Bibles, Testaments and Portions in Afrikaans, against 127,000 in 1956.

In order to commemorate this Silver Jubilee, and also as one of our ways of fund-raising to reach the

target of £100,000 for a Scripture Production Capital Fund, a stamp has been issued, representing an open Bible surmounted by a sower. This stamp has been printed in two sizes: the small one (1in. × 1½in.) is meant for ordinary correspondence and the large one (2in. × 3in.) can be affixed to the front page of the Bible. Our motto is "No Afrikaans Bible without a commemoration stamp". 80,000 booklets are being printed, selling at 2/6d. each and containing nine stamps. It is our aim to bring in £10,000 from the sale of these stamps.

An exhibition of unique Bibles has also been on show in Bible House, Cape Town, from 2nd June, 1958. Amongst the books is the very first Bible on which South African sunlight ever fell. There is also in the collection the first book printed in Afrikaans in South Africa. This was done in 1873 and is a short paragraph for children of the story of Joseph. Then there is the first effort in translating the Bible into Afrikaans, which dates back to 1875.

This exhibition will become a permanent feature of Bible House, Cape Town, as part of our library where visitors and scholars will be able to trace the beginnings of the Bible in South Africa.

Central America

The Rev. J. Limkemann, secretary of the American Bible Society agency in Central America, reports the following about recent developments in colportage work in his area:

Bookstores to-day are an important factor in making the Bible available to Central Americans. But they have not replaced the colporteur. Bookstore and colporteur make a strong combination. The bookstore established at a known location provides everyone a place to get the Bible when he wants it. The colporteur going into the highways and byways demonstrates concern for the individual. And these agencies reach their greatest fruitfulness when both work with the churches, stimulating members to read for themselves, and to share the Good News with their neighbours.

For a year and a half Sr. Crisanto Robayo has travelled over large sections of the province of Chiriqui, Panama. He has introduced the Scriptures to many isolated families. This work is supported jointly by local churches of three denominations, together with several Methodist churches in the United States and a small contribution each month from the Bible Society agency. On November 16, 1957 the Rev. W. Reitza, Methodist missionary who directs Sr. Robayo's efforts, wrote expressing his thankfulness for having a part in this work for one year as a Bible Society correspondent. During that year they placed 379 Bibles, 138 Testaments and 4,556 Portions.

The Baptist Convention of Nicaragua employs Sr. Benjamin Urizar as colporteur-evangelist. The Bible Society agency makes a monthly contribution to this endeavour to help pay the colporteur's travelling expenses. The method is to use a local church as a centre of work and to encourage interested people to seek Christian fellowship in a church. In the months of December, 1957, and January and February, 1958, Sr. Urizar worked out from eighteen churches, in as many towns. He visited 1,100 homes and sold Scriptures in 468 of them.

In reporting to the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua in April, 1958, Sr. Urizar said: "One of the great experiences of my ministry is to witness daily the proof of Christ's saying that the harvest is great and the workers few". He went on to give various examples. He quoted the words of one person visited: "In all the years that we have lived here no one has come to speak to us of the love of God".

England

Following its policy of appointing a limited number of specialists to fields where expert knowledge of languages or cultures is indispensable to progress in its work, the General Committee of the *British and Foreign Bible Society* recently appointed Mr. Cyril Sanderson for the parallel tasks of assisting in the completion of the revised Hausa Bible, at present in hand, and of seeking to develop a new approach to the problems of evangelism by the use of the Scriptures, in these areas where the Christian and Muslim faiths are in fierce competition for millions of Africans.

Mr. Sanderson was, until recently, a missionary of the Sudan United Mission, stationed in Kano in Northern Nigeria, and it is hoped that he will undertake the training of selected colporteurs (travelling evangelists with the Christian Scriptures) to enable them to answer the difficulties and objections of those already influenced by Islam.

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The President of the UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES, the Rt. Rev. F. D. Coggan, Bishop of Bradford, was the guest speaker at the B.F.B.S. Annual Meeting last May. In four brief sketches the Bishop underlined the importance of the Scripture, its translation, circulation, reading and study in the struggle of the Christian faith in the world to-day, in the face of resurgent faiths in the mission field, atheistic philosophies and indifference in the West and dialectical materialism in the East.

"These are my four pictures" concluded the speaker. "I do not think they are highly coloured. I believe they are realistic and true to life as it is to-day in various parts of the world. There are elements in those four pictures that are grim. There are factors in all of them which give ground for hope to those who have eyes to see, to those who realise that God is still on the throne, that He has not abdicated, that He is in control of His universe and of history and of His Church, that God still works as He has done all down the years through minorities, through what Bishop Stephen Neill calls 'the dynamic minority'.

"That is where you come in. That is where I come in. That is where the British and Foreign Bible Society comes in. We provide the tools that the Church Militant may finish the job before it becomes the Church Triumphant. We produce and circulate the Bible with an urgency born of the vision that the battle is set and will be fierce right to the end; with a passion born of the fact that it is the Christ of the Bible Who Himself has set us free and put a new song in our mouth. And we would have the world join in the Church's Hallelujah."

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The Rev. Dr. W. J. Platt, reporting on the work of the B.F.B.S. at the Annual Meeting, revealed that requests received from the agents in 1957 "were so great that we could not face up to them—indeed, they would have cost nearly £1 million in paper, printing and binding alone, so for the first time in the history of the Society we had to ration the production of the Gospel". Nevertheless, there were "issued from London, 200,000 more Scriptures than in 1956 and although we have had to slow up production, we are still shipping from London three times the tonnage of Scriptures that we were doing ten years ago".

*

Early this Spring the B.F.B.S. Publishing Department announced the production of the first Ruanda Bible, a language spoken by two million people, of whom about 80,000 are Christians. The New Testament was first published in 1931. The work

on the present edition was completed by Dr. A. C. Stanley Smith, with the help of missionaries and Ruanda Christians.

St. Mark's Gospel has also been published recently in Matakam, representing the first publication of the Scriptures in that language, which is spoken in the Cameroons. Missionary work was started in the area in 1950 and the translator, the Rev. H. Eichenberger of the Sudan United Mission, had first to reduce the language to writing.

A tentative edition of Genesis in the new union version Nandi-Kipsigis (East Equatorial Africa) has been published, in order to test the acceptability of this union version, prepared by Miss F. Mumford and a local assistant. The whole Bible will eventually be published in this version.

An illustrated Gospel of Luke in Congo-Fioti has just come off the press in London. It is the first magazine Gospel published for the Congo. The majority of the illustrations show Palestinian scenes. Some others are reproductions of photographs taken in the Congo and illustrate the life of Congolese Christians.

A further new edition is the Habbe (Dogon) New Testament, spoken by approximately 160,000 in the French Sudan. The Rev. F. M. Ballard, of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, has worked on this translation with local helpers. Several members of the tribe are Christians.

With the completion of St. Matthew's Gospel, the Mukuni people, Northern Rhodesia, now have the four Gospels and Acts in their tongue. The Rev. S. D. Gray, of the Methodist Missionary Society, who has been working for forty-five years among the Mukuni, hopes to complete the translation of the New Testament during his retirement. It is estimated that almost half of the Mukuni, numbering 60,000 people, are literate.

Literacy is also relatively high among the Chin:Vaiphei Christians, in the Manipur area and Cachar. The New Testament in that language, spoken by 6,000, a third of whom are Christians, has just come from the press. The translation is the work of Pastor Siaklam, helped by four other nationals.

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The B.F.B.S. has issued the second edition of its ancient Greek New Testament. The first edition appeared in 1904. The work on the present edition was begun in 1946, when the Society decided to produce a second edition of the 1904 text, with a fully revised apparatus. The task was entrusted to Dr. E. Nestle, of the Stuttgart Bible Society, and to Professor G. D. Kilpatrick.

The apparatus has been constructed on quite different principles from that of the first edition. The 1904 apparatus gave 'every variation of importance' of '(1) the Textus Receptus, and (2) the Greek text which avowedly or inferentially underlies the English Revised Version of 1881'. The readings implied by the alternatives in the Revisers' margin were also indicated. At no point was the manuscript evidence for any of these readings supplied.

The present apparatus 'is intended to give a selection of the important variant readings including all readings of moment which may be original, those which are characteristic of the main types of text (such as the Western text) and other readings of special interest'.

New knowledge about the Latin versions has been employed, manuscripts have been collated and the quotations of the Fathers carefully studied. In Acts, for example, the Old Latin evidence has often been more fully cited. New editions of texts have been regularly at hand.

The Sahidic and Bohairic evidence has been corrected and supplemented and new material about the other Coptic versions added. For the remaining versions, the Syriac, Armenian, Georgian, etc., the latest information has been available and citations have been carefully checked.

The first copy of this edition, in a special binding, was presented to the Duke of Edinburgh on 19th February last, on the occasion of the visit of the Queen and her husband to the Bible House.

The day of the B.F.B.S. Annual Meeting, 7th May, was the official date on which the sale of the book was authorised. On that day, *The Times* (London) devoted two columns to an article by Professor Kilpatrick on the new publication and the historical and scientific background which led to the enterprise.

Germany

The *Stuttgart Bible Society* has announced the despatch to New Guinea of the third edition of its illustrated New Testament in Jabem. A volume containing 64 biblical illustrations in colour, with accompanying texts in the Fulani dialect of Tcholliré, has also been published. This edition has been sent as a gift of the Stuttgart and Palatinate Bible Societies. The first reports received from the field indicate a warm reception.

The same Society also reports the production of an edition of St. John's Gospel with illustrations by Rembrandt. The 28 line drawings were chosen by Dr. Hans Martin Rotermund, an expert in the art of Rembrandt. It is produced under the title "Kommt! seht einen Menschen, ob er Christus sei" (Come! see if this person is Christ). From the pictures chosen, Rembrandt shows how individual people may meet Christ: how their inward eye may be opened to the secret of God's kingdom through the helpful act or through Christ's word. Thus the groups of pictures in this edition appear under the general theme: "How people encounter Christ". The version of John's Gospel used is that of the 1956 revised Luther text.

The Stuttgart Society has also issued a new edition of Prelate Schlatter's own revision of the Luther New Testament. That text had already been issued in 1954, with illustrations by W. Steinhausen. The present edition does not contain any illustrations.

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The Rev. Dr. K. Zabel, General Secretary of *Bibelwerk*—the Federation of the Bible Societies in the D.D.R. (German Democratic Republic)—reported at the annual meeting of the *Union of German Bible Societies*, which was held in Berlin on 21st April, that 65,000 Bibles and over 150,000 Testaments were produced during 1957 in the D.D.R. In addition a quarter of a million Christmas and Easter selections were also issued as a first experiment in that country.

Bible exhibitions and Bible Weeks were also held in many cities of the D.D.R., in which the Bible Societies took a prominent part.

In addition a booklet came off the press in April, supplying background information, sermon outlines, a suggested programme for the holding of a Bible Sunday or of Bible evenings and suggestions for promoting increased interest in the use and study of the Scriptures. This "Handreichung für Bibelmission" has been prepared by the Rev. J. Adler of the Berlin Bible Society and Dr. K. Zabel. Similar background material was circulated in mimeographed form last year in certain sections of the D.D.R. The success of that first experiment led to this year's action.

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The Union of German Bible Societies has published, for the first time, a yearbook under the title: The Bible in the World. General Secretary Dr. A. Müller reported at the annual meeting of the Union that the demand had exceeded all expectations. The experiment is to be repeated next year.

The 1958 yearbook contains articles on Bible Society work in Germany, on the revision work on the Luther Old Testament, on Bible Society work in the mission field (Tibet, Truk Islands) and in other European countries (Austria and Switzerland), a report on the U.B.S. meetings in Brazil last summer and a translation of Bishop Berggrav's letter, published in the U.B.S. BULLETIN two years ago on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the U.B.S.

Guatemala

The total circulation of the Scriptures in Guatemala in 1957 reached 243,217 copies, higher than in any previous year. Indeed, this is a higher total circulation than attained in any one year by the entire Central America Agency, covering six republics, prior to 1950. Mr. Ralph Rice has directed the work with vision and enthusiasm in a country where missionary and national church work are very active.

Of the total, 220,856 copies were Portions, 9,757 Bibles and 12,604 Testaments. Sixty university students of Guatemala City undertook the placement of a New Testament in the hands of their fellow students. Each Testament was wrapped in attractive celophane paper. These were delivered personally to 4,000 university students in the city. Letters of appreciation came back to the Christian University Centre, conducted by the Rev. and Mrs. Robert Thorpe of the Presbyterian Mission.

Throughout Guatemala a pro-programme of colportage is being carried on. At times as many as six men have been at work. A colourful but difficult endeavour is that of reaching the 1,500,000 dialect-speaking Indians. The first difficulty to overcome is to find a man who speaks their language. The sub-agency was fortunate indeed in securing Sr. Eugenio Juracan who speaks both Cakchiquel and Quiché, the two most populous of the eighteen dialects spoken by the Indians of Guatemala. These two dialects account for more than half the Indians of the country. Sr. Juracan concentrates on the sale of New Testaments, due to the fact that the entire Bible has not yet been translated into any of the dialects. In January he was able to place 34 New Testaments in two weeks, a remarkable record when it is remembered that only a small percentage of the dialect-speaking people is literate. Language and illiteracy are the two chief barriers in this area of colportage.

India

A Bible van has been purchased with the help of funds from the American Bible Society, for use in the Bombay area. The Rev. W. Park Rankin, Secretary of the Bombay auxiliary, has equipped the van with audio-visual aids. It is touring the area and the assistance of local church people is being enlisted in evangelistic colportage.

In South India, the Rev. C. Arangaden, who recently joined the staff of the *Bible Society of India and Ceylon* as Distribution Promoter, has been touring his area and has recruited many volunteers in various centres all over the country. Referring to one such group, Mr. Arangaden wrote: "In their endeavours to preach the Gospel, they have kept themselves thoroughly mobile, visiting one centre after another in well-organised Gospel teams, defraying the expenses of travel and hospitality from their own pockets". It must be remembered that the policy of the B.S.I.C. in matters of

Bible colportage has been, for many years, to limit its services to areas not covered by any church or mission and to ask the churches to assume the responsibility of missionary Scripture circulation in areas where the Church has taken root. Notwithstanding, as is evident from these two examples, it remains the Society's policy to take any practical steps which may encourage and strengthen the efforts of the churches.

Italy

The sale of Scriptures at commercial fairs in important cities in Italy meets with definite success. The Maison de la Bible, Geneva (Switzerland), which for years has had agents with their booths at these fairs, reports very encouraging results during last winter, when over a thousand Bibles and a good number of New Testaments, Gospels and Gospel tracts were sold. The Italian Colportage Committee of the European Evangelistic Crusade also tells of the positive work of its colporteurs in various parts of the country, who sold "numerous Bibles and Testaments" and distributed free large quantities of Portions and Scriptural and religious tracts.

The Bible Society agency circulation figures (over 11,000 Bibles, 8,000 Testaments and nearly 175,000 Portions) show a total increase of over 20% on the circulation figures of the previous years, and twice as many as in 1950. Most of the books are sold by some 450 voluntary colporteurs, who send regular orders to the Rome depot. This increased demand reduced the stocks of the agency to a very low level and reprints had to be rushed through the press.

The various Italian churches are also engaged in evangelistic activities and some of them make increasing use of Scriptures in their work.

At the last open-air book fair in Rome, the Bible also found a place. The *Giornale d'Italia* reported: ". . . . Amongst the various exhibits of this fair, one appears for the first time—the Bible. From the illustrated Bible to one without pictures, from that in Russian to that in Hebrew, to the Vulgate, in all languages, it is lovely to see these books magnificently bound in red, some in morocco leather, others in cloth . . . ."

Japan

A new Bible van is to be bought by the *Japan Bible Society*, with the help of the B.F.B.S., to take the place of the one which was bought three years ago as an experiment. The usefulness of such a service has appeared clearly all through the years. During the last six months the team of the Bible van arranged for the setting up of 83 new small Scripture depositories in four provinces. Films were shown on 39 occasions.

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The Rev. T. Miyakoda, General Secretary of the Japan Bible Society, reported that work on the Reference Bible had been progressing as scheduled and that Professor M. Takahashi and his two helpers expected to complete their work in about eighteen months.

*

Circulation by colporteurs increased from half a million copies a year in 1953 to over one million in 1957. The detailed figures also show that this increase corresponds to a remarkable extension in the planning of colportage campaigns, which had previously been left mainly to the initiative of the individual colporteur.

Netherlands

The *Netherlands Bible Society* has just published, in the series of illustrated magazine Gospels, the Gospel of St. Mark in Frisian, entitled "In

Nij Bigjin" (A Fresh Start). It is illustrated with photographs from contemporary Palestine.

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Apart from two weeks for vacations the two colportage vans toured the Netherlands throughout the period from February to the end of November, 1957. The turnover, amounting to Fls. 92,317.92, surpassed the figure of the preceding year by Fls. 3,259.84, whilst gifts were received up to a total of no less than Fls. 4,112.88. However, of more significance is the fact that through this channel the Bible enters many houses in which it would not find admission otherwise. In this connection it is a remarkable fact that in many places where colportage was originally thought to be superfluous, surprising results were observed.

Philippines

The Philippine Bible House is at present responsible for revision work on the whole Bible in seven languages. In one of them, Hiligaynon, the work has already been completed and the Bible is on the press in New York. The latest revision undertaken is that of the Pampango Bible. The Rev. Dr. F. Galang, a Philippino, is now working full-time on this revision, with the help of a revision committee. The revision of the New Testament, with which the work is starting, is expected to last three years.

The other languages in which revision is going on are: Bicol, Tagalog, Samarino, Cebuano, Ilocano.

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Scotland

The *National Bible Society of Scotland* has just published a 32-page booklet: "The Minister and Ways of Using the Bible", adapted from one issued some years ago by the American Bible Society. It is a common practice to call upon Christian people to make more regular and faithful use of their Scriptures. But people need encouragement and guidance. The new N.B.S.S. publication proposes a number of ways of increasing the use of the Scriptures in the parish and the life of the individual. It is addressed as a "refresher course for ministers" to pastors, because "an indispensable part of the work of the ministry is to help people of all ages not simply to accept the Word of God as it is preached and read and expounded in the Church, but to love it, and use it on their own initiative". "The Christian leader must realise that spiritual advancement depends to a very great extent on developing in people an affection for the Bible and wise grounding in its use, familiarity with it and increasing interest in it".

The different chapters refer to the use of the Bible in personal reading, in the home, in public worship, in Sunday school and Bible class, parish and community, beyond the local church and parish. In appendices, a reasoned plan of Bible reading covering one year is proposed, as well as "a suggested three-year minister's plan for encouragement of Bible use".

The importance and usefulness of this publication is to be seen against the background of the "Tell Scotland" movement—a long term evangelistic campaign of which the visit of Billy Graham to Glasgow two years ago was but one element.

Sweden

Under the title "Dagen gryr" (The day dawns), the first illustrated Gospel in magazine format in Swedish has been produced recently by a commercial publisher specialised in mathematical publications, but whose owner was keen to produce "something of deeper value". This printer has made his own collection and choice of illustrations and himself prepared the text with the help of a well-known Swedish pastor and a scholar in

oriental languages. Plans are afoot by which the *Swedish Bible Society* would take over responsibility for the production and circulation of this and similar editions of the Gospels which are planned.

The edition of "Dagen gryr" was out of print in a short time and a reprint is being prepared.

Switzerland

The Société Evangélique de Genève, a member of the *Swiss Bible Society*, employs several colporteurs in France whose work is co-ordinated by the Alliance biblique française with that of its own colporteurs. Last Spring the Société Evangélique also undertook to support the work of a colporteur for the French-speaking part of Switzerland. Mr. F. Girardet, who canvasses the country, has been the head of the Bible kiosk in Geneva. The supporters of his work at the kiosk co-operate with the Société Evangélique for the support of Mr. Girardet's new activity. The society is also supplying the colporteur with a small Bible van and is working on a project by which theological students and other church youth would co-operate with Mr. Girardet in colportage work during the holiday seasons.

Thailand

Work on the translation of the Old Testment in Lisu, a language spoken in China, Burma and North Thailand, has recently been resumed on the arrival from Burma in North Thailand of two Lisu Christian teachers, who are able to help the missionaries, Revs. A. B. Cooke and A. C. W. Crune, in their translation work. No date has been fixed yet for the completion of the work, but the China Inland Mission reports that the helpers have come to stay for at least three years.

United States of America

Six million copies of the Revised Standard Version Bible have been circulated, it is reported, since this edition first appeared in the U.S.A. in 1952. In addition three and a half million New Testaments have also been sold.

Miss S. Ruth Barrett, secretary of the *American Bible Society's* world-wide work for the blind, has been presented the 1958 annual National Achievement Award in Philadelphia's 31st National Week for the Blind.

The A.B.S. began its work for the blind in 1835 with the printing of the first Bible in the Line Letter System for the sightless, and has published the Scriptures in each new system of reading for the blind as it came into use. In April, as the Bible Society completes 123 years of service to the sightless, the distribution to those who read with their finger tips will total well over a half-million volumes in 42 languages and systems.

Special Scripture distribution is being conducted by the American Bible Society along the new St. Lawrence Seaway. Four thousand "mobile homes" have brought temporary residents to a previously sparsely populated section. A worker of the Bible Society has been visiting the trailer courts, leaving an illustrated Gospel in each home and presenting each trailer dweller with the opportunity to possess and read the Bible. Nearly 700 volumes of the Society's Scriptures have been distributed so far in this programme, which will continue for several months.

United Bible Societies

During the first fortnight of August, an International Bible Society Conference is to take place in Landskrön (Austria). Bible Societies in Britain (Scotland and England), the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Austria are arranging

for young people to attend the meeting, which is expected to bring together about 80 people.

The central theme of the Conference will be: The Bible, the Word of God in our World To-day. Each day will begin with group Bible study. Lectures, which will be followed by discussion, on the main and connected themes, will be presented by speakers from Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands and Britain.

The Conference is arranged on the initiative of the youth secretaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Netherlands Bible Society. A preparatory meeting was held last summer in France with representatives of all the Bible Societies interested.

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A U.B.S. Regional Conference for the Scandinavian Bible Societies will take place in the second half of August, near Oslo, for three days. It will be attended by a few visitors from other European U.B.S. member Societies. Two main themes will be under consideration: How to develop and strengthen the activity of Bible Societies which are now beginning to take a share in the world-wide task; and What is the challenge that these Societies are called upon to face.

The secretaries of the Scandinavian Bible Societies met last autumn and at the end of May this year, in order to make plans for the Conference.

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Some rearrangements in field responsibilities have taken place in the course of recent months.

In Africa, the B.F.B.S. Agency of the Federation of Central Africa (North and South Rhodesias and Nyasaland) has become a joint agency of the B.F.B.S. and the National Bible Society of Scotland. In the Congo, the work is now shared equally by the B.F.B.S. and the American Bible Society. In these territories, administration remains the responsibility of London. The work in the Cameroons is now shared equally by the Netherlands Bible Society and the B.F.B.S., administration being the responsibility of Amsterdam. The Swiss Bible Society has been invited to share responsibility with the B.F.B.S. for Mozambique. The B.F.B.S. in Canada and in Australia are sharing direct responsibility with the B.F.B.S. London for the work in West Africa and East Africa respectively, the administration remaining with the London office. The American Bible Society is also meeting on equal terms with the B.F.B.S. the balance on the cost of the work in India and France, which the local Societies are unable to meet. The administrative contacts will continue to be maintained from London. The Norwegian Bible Society has agreed to share equally with the A.B.S. and the B.F.B.S. the cost of the work in Uruguay and Paraguay.

The National Bible Society of Scotland has also undertaken to cover the cost of the appointment of a production manager for the Bible Society of India and Ceylon.

Furthermore, the boards of the B.F.B.S. and the N.B.S.S. have come to the following agreement:

That two nominees of the National Bible Society of Scotland should become members of the British and Foreign Bible Society Translations Sub-Committee, sharing in the consideration of translational matters. The British and Foreign Bible Society will formally appoint annually two nominees of the N.B.S.S.

This arrangement means that the services of the B.F.B.S. Translations Department are available for the translational matters of the N.B.S.S. It also means that translational problems in connection with existing

versions, or new versions, of the N.B.S.S. will come into the London Translations Department and, where necessary, into the London Translations Sub-Committee.

Miscellaneous

According to the estimates of the Academy of Political and Moral Science in Paris, there are in Africa to-day 80 million Muslims, as against 40 million twenty years ago. This considerable increase seems to be due partly to the high birth-rate among the Muslim population of Egypt and partly to the numerous conversions to Mohammedanism among the peoples of equatorial Africa. According to the same source, there are among the latter to-day 28 million Muslims, 13 million Roman Catholics, 4 million Protestants and 85 million pagans.

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The following data are taken from a lecture delivered last year at the Evangelical Academy of Loccum (Germany) by Professor F. Baade, of the Institute of International Economy in Kiel. In the year 2000, the world's population will amount to 5 billion people as compared with 2½ billion in 1950. It will be the first time that the population of the world has doubled in half a century. It took a whole century, 1850-1950, for the world's population to double.

In the year 2000 China, Pakistan and Burma—if their present rate of increase in population continues—will contain half of the world's inhabitants. "And this will happen so quickly that the younger people alive to-day will see it. This is the world in which our chidren and grandchildren will live". China's population will have doubled during the next 35-40 years.

According to Professor Baade, the number of industrial workers in the world should rise from between 200 or 250 million by an additional billion during the same period of 50 years, the majority of whom then will be Chinese, Indians, Japanese and other Asians. This means that the countries of Asia "will most probably form the economic centre of the world . . . . . Already to-day half of India's exports are manufactured goods . . . . . Consequently the old industrial countries must stop imagining that they will always be the economic centre of the world, and that the other countries will always be poor and dependent on their help".

Personalia

Mr. R. A. E. Daniell, after six years of training in a printing business in Yorkshire, has been appointed by the Bible Society of India and Ceylon as production manager of the Society in Bangalore. He is seconded to the Society by the National Bible Society of Scotland.

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In its recently-published annual report for the year 1957, the Netherlands Bible Society mentions the death on 16th January, 1958, of its Production Manager, **Mr. J. de Vries,** following a serious illness towards the end of the year. The N.B.S. has thus lost a devoted co-operator, who gave all energy, until the very end, to the work of Bible distribution.

WORLD CIRCULATION BY NATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETIES—1957

It should be pointed out that although the following circulation figures are given under countries, in most of these the work is not done by national Bible Societies but by the Agencies of the larger Societies. Even where the work is carried out by a national Society, the latter is in many cases supported from abroad. These figures represent circulation by Bible Societies only and do not include that done by commercial publishers.

Country	*Bibles*	*Testaments*	*Portions*	*Total*	1956 *Total*
AFRICA:					
North	5,003	6,241	50,172	61,416	62,739
South	195,789	86,343	441,603	723,735	487,749
East	37,335	44,325	63,700	145,360	598,310
British West	377,858	58,950	129,720	566,528	176,786
French West	5,692	29,150	19,979	54,821	56,064
Congo and Angola	37,204	63,588	328,485	429,277	694,780
Liberia..	1,136	1,243	4,497	6,876	15,715
Madagascar	9,952	14,000	1,200	25,152	(inc. in E. Africa)
Rhodesias	58,298	43,064	190,578	291,940	111,627
Sudan	856	1,952	5,412	8,220	11,864
ADEN & SOMALILANDS ..	112	78	612	802	(inc. in Africa)
ARGENTINA	44,377	28,823	351,746	424,946	500,834
AUSTRALIA	75,126	30,869	104,200	210,195	218,772
AUSTRIA	24,413	31,120	64,876	120,409	47,795
BELGIUM..	9,204	7,571	38,894	55,669	57,740
BOLIVIA	12,596	14,220	87,794	114,610	174,120
BRAZIL	154,803	62,085	1,429,287	1,646,175	3,206,913
BURMA	6,932	6,283	20,400	33,615	42,419
CANADA	111,189	74,099	164,381	349,669	359,480
CANAL ZONE	1,324	1,000	6,367	8,691	21,314
CEYLON	3,614	6,443	64,700	74,757	(inc. in India)
CHILE	23,176	28,276	169,176	220,628	292,469
COLOMBIA	13,692	15,914	146,274	175,880	190,197
COSTA RICA	3,292	3,384	28,539	35,215	29,711
CUBA	16,330	20,125	344,915	381,370	390,864
CURACAO & NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	1,520	302	240	2,062	—
CYPRUS	749	2,036	2,708	5,493	3,138
DENMARK	21,728	48,179	62,577	132,484	36,700
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ..	5,018	6,011	44,338	55,367	81,352
ECUADOR	3,306	2,616	60,334	66,256	91,982
EGYPT	8,264	16,454	70,654	95,372	82,611
EL SALVADOR	6,137	4,314	139,498	149,949	104,767
ENGLAND AND WALES ..	338,171	74,897	271,454	684,522	562,588
ERITREA	1,392	619	1,931	3,942	—
ETHIOPIA..	3,331	5,184	14,392	22,907	22,192
FINLAND..	71,817	50,709	13,504	136,030	129,191
FRANCE	48,172	36,820	94,111	179,103	184,184
GERMANY	483,073	279,014	412,696	1,174,783	960,013
GREECE	13,790	30,738	47,985	92,513	125,068
GUATEMALA	9,757	12,604	220,856	243,217	193,512
HAITI	2,513	1,520	7,159	11,192	4,371
HASHEMITE KINGDOM ..	1,963	3,681	13,729	19,373	31,018
HONDURAS	3,224	2,385	41,262	46,871	39,191

Country	*Bibles*	*Testaments*	*Portions*	*Total*	1956 *Total*
HONGKONG	60,258	19,853	530,163	610,274	122,402 (inc. Taiwan)
ICELAND	1,818	—	—	1,818	2,615
INDIA	54,532	72,953	948,460	1,075,945	1,047,118 (inc. Ceylon)
INDO-CHINA	2,937	623	123,626	127,186	212,475
INDONESIA	5,503	46,624	96,266	148,393	187,974
IRAN	927	1,574	30,249	32,750	32,596
IRAQ	1,001	1,506	15,657	18,164	12,202
IRELAND	7,478	6,717	30,763	44,958	51,554
ISRAEL	5,005	904	1,111	7,020	15,046
ITALY	11,379	8,314	173,908	193,601	158,541
JAPAN	75,284	358,736	1,333,690	1,767,710	1,821,912
KOREA	28,865	172,060	555,341	756,266	809,458
MALAYA	11,576	6,586	80,128	98,290	110,518
MEXICO	37,354	15,168	319,813	372,335	504,367
NETHERLANDS..	100,796	11,726	95,343	207,865	144,942
NEW GUINEA	1,220	6,879	12,504	20,603	8,450
NEW ZEALAND	13,764	7,056	15,471	36,291	58,662
NICARAGUA	2,675	2,707	44,208	49,590	56,224
NORWAY	30,294	81,005	11,135	122,434	109,895
OKINAWA	3,265	13,410	7,968	24,643	—
PACIFIC ISLANDS	5,421	6,608	—	12,029	14,713
PAKISTAN	3,880	3,872	51,339	59,091	77,657
PANAMA	3,177	1,128	19,577	23,882	42,706
PARAGUAY	2,951	1,861	31,805	36,617	68,498
PERU	15,016	9,380	112,174	136,570	150,394
PHILIPPINES	21,582	20,446	97,382	139,410	190,232
POLAND	21,701	10,759	228,034	260,494	200,754
PORTUGAL	5,568	7,602	239,449	252,619	218,873
PUERTO RICO	13,115	20,463	149,733	183,311	183,138
SCOTLAND	21,437	16,463	55,083	92,983	92,223
SPAIN	4,988	6,139	7,990	19,117	23,948
SWEDEN	79,801	33,232	5,067	118,100	116,822
SWITZERLAND	67,185	29,238	36,450	132,873	136,212
SYRIA & LEBANON	4,206	4,909	38,852	47,967	38,748
TAIWAN	1,866	771	5,073	7,710	(Inc. in Hongkong total)
THAILAND	1,343	3,174	493,258	497,775	385,571
TURKEY	1,514	1,760	19,312	22,586	17,030
U.S.A.	537,957	924,237	5,988,732	7,450,926	7,999,823
URUGUAY	11,942	4,230	94,942	111,114	139,541
VENEZUELA	13,489	11,622	202,968	228,079	308,209
VIRGIN ISLANDS	221	220	3,000	3,441	2,286
WEST INDIES (BR.)	48,369	22,717	41,467	112,553	78,342
YUGOSLAVIA	3,459	8,475	2,167	14,101	23,070
	3,599,347	3,240,936	18,126,593	24,966,876	26,379,142
1956 Figures	3,219,495	3,204,846	19,954,801	26,379,142	
1955 Figures	2,959,685	3,113,978	19,322,341	25,396,004	